

The organization of entries in Spanish-English/English-Spanish bilingual dictionaries

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*This paper discusses the organization of equivalents and presentation of fixed expressions in six bilingual dictionaries of Spanish and English. The dictionaries studied were published over the last forty years (1971, 1983, 2003, 2004, and 2008), and we compare the information contained in the older dictionaries with more recent ones. In addition, we compare frequency data taken from the Corpus del Español with information on fixed expressions contained in the dictionary entries. The focus of the study is on the representation of the Spanish words *cuadro* and *hoyo*, and the English word *poison*. The discussion herein would be of benefit to those planning a new bilingual dictionary or major overhaul of an existing one.*

1. Introduction

This paper aims to contribute to the body of work on the organization of entries in bilingual lexicography. We take a detailed look at entries in several different Spanish-English/English-Spanish dictionaries published over the past forty years, to determine if and how the structure of entries has changed. The fact that several comparable dictionaries have been published over a substantial period of time allows us to evaluate the effects, if any, that innovations in monolingual lexicography have had on bilingual lexicography.

2. Issues in the structure of entries in bilingual dictionaries

It is obvious that bilingual dictionaries provide equivalents; however, exactly how entries should be organized is not so evident. This question has been discussed in the literature (e.g. Ianucci (1962), Jarošova (2000)), most notably in the recent book by Adamska-Sałaciak (2006). As Atkins (1996) points out, in order to make good proposals for future dictionaries it is important to be fully aware of what current dictionaries are like. Review of past and current practice is appropriate at this time, since many features of dictionary organization are being reconsidered as dictionaries move into the digital age. The main questions posed by this paper in relation to Spanish-English/English-Spanish bilingual lexicography, then, may be summarized as follows:

- If and how has sense organization changed in the dictionaries studied? One of the main developments in the organization of entries in monolingual learner's dictionaries in recent years is the increasing use of signposts or other semantic labels to guide users through long, complex articles. Given that many entries in bilingual dictionaries are quite long due to anisomorphism (Zgusta 1971: 294-296; Adamska-Sałaciak 2006: 20), what attempts, if any, have been made in Spanish/English bilingual dictionaries to group senses together? Have the groups of senses been labeled with a semantic indicator or a mini-definition of sorts?
- What criteria have been used to determine the order of senses? As Adamska-Sałaciak remarks, sense ordering in bilingual dictionaries often derives directly from sense ordering in monolingual dictionaries because "bilingual dictionaries rely heavily on existing monolingual dictionaries of L_x and L_y"¹ (2006: 96). In the past forty years, sense ordering is one of the aspects that has changed most dramatically in English monolingual lexicography, as publishers have moved away from historical order to

¹ L_x and L_y is shorthand for L[language]_x and L[language]_y.

criteria such as frequency of occurrence and semantic progression from (more) literal to (more) figurative. Can any changes be observed in the ordering of senses in the more recent dictionaries?

- The role of collocations in foreign language teaching is quite different now than it was in the 1960s. The presence of collocations has been widely discussed in relation with learner's dictionaries, the target users of which are often also users of bilingual dictionaries. Has treatment of collocations in bilingual dictionaries for Spanish/English changed in any way? Where are collocations found within entries: are they listed under a specific sense, or are they given at the end of the entire entry, along with fully idiomatic expressions?

Taken together, the answers to these questions provide us with an overall picture of the microstructure of bilingual dictionary entries for the Spanish/English language combination and put us in a position to propose improvements.

3. Dictionaries studied

The entries studied in this paper come from the following dictionaries; for ease of reference, we will use the abbreviations given in square brackets in the remainder of this paper:

Collins Spanish Dictionary (1971): [Collins 1971];
Collins Diccionario Universal Español-Inglés/English-Spanish (2003)²: [Collins 2003];
Larousse Gran Diccionario Inglés-Español/Spanish-English (1983): [Larousse 1983];
Larousse Gran Diccionario Inglés-Español/Spanish-English (2004)³: [Larousse 2004];
Simon and Schuster's International Dictionary English-Spanish/Spanish-English (1971): [S&S 1971];
Oxford Spanish Dictionary (4th edition, 2008): [Oxford 2008].

Four of these six dictionaries were produced by editorial teams; Collins 1971 is primarily the work of a single author, Professor Colin Smith of Cambridge, and Larousse 1983, primarily the work of Ramón García-Pelayo y Gross. It is fair to say that all of these dictionaries belong to the same segment of the market, and all claim to be useful for English speakers as well as for Spanish speakers. The dictionaries include information on British and American English, and on Iberian and Latin American Spanish.

4. Data

We will consider three entries in this paper: two from the Spanish-English direction (the noun *cuadro* and the noun *hoyo*) and one from the English-Spanish direction (the English word *poison*). These entries are good examples of the differences observed between the older dictionaries, which for the purposes of our discussion include S&S 1971, Collins 1971, Larousse 1983, and the more recent ones (i.e. Oxford 2008, Collins 2003, and Larousse 2004), and were chosen specifically for the following reasons. The word *cuadro* is quite polysemous and exhibits several extensions of sense. From the original idea of 'square', the

² The 2003 Collins dictionary is the 7th edition of the 1971 Collins dictionary.

³ Although these two dictionaries share the same title, *Larousse Gran Diccionario* (2004) is not an updated edition of *Larousse Gran Diccionario* (1983) but rather an entirely different dictionary, originally produced by Chambers Harrap Publishers.

meaning of *cuadro* now encompasses objects that are prototypically rectangular (such as paintings, frames and control panels). It also has several other derived senses and is used in many lexicalized multi-word units. The word *hoyo* ‘hole’ also exhibits sense extension, but from the standpoint of establishing equivalents in English is less complicated than *cuadro*. However, an interesting point about *hoyo* is that it is more specific than its usual English equivalent ‘hole’, as in its literal sense an *hoyo* can only be in the ground (and not in a wall, for example). Finally, *poison*, like many words in English, is used as a noun and a verb⁴ and the meanings of the two are clearly related, which might lead lexicographers to lump the noun and verb together under a single headword, as is done in some monolingual dictionaries of English such as *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* and the *Concise Oxford American Dictionary*. For the words *cuadro* and *hoyo*, we discuss entries from two of the older dictionaries and two of the more recent ones, and for *poison* we discuss the representations in all six dictionaries. The entries for *cuadro*, *hoyo* and *poison* showcase issues that commonly occur in the English/Spanish language combination and thus serve our purposes for establishing grounds for comparison, and the length of the entries permits scrutiny in this paper.

4.1. Treatment of the word *cuadro*⁵

Oxford 2008⁶

cuadro m

A 1 (Art) (pintura) painting; (grabado, reproducción) picture; **está pintando un** ~ he's doing a painting, he's painting a picture; **un** ~ **de Dalí** a painting by Dalí **2** (Teatr) scene **3** (gráfico) table, chart **4** (TV) frame

Compuestos

- **cuadro de honor** honors board* (list of outstanding students)
- **cuadro sinóptico** synoptic chart
- **cuadro vivo** tableau vivant

B 1 (Lit) (descripción) picture, description; **me pintó un** ~ **muy negro** he painted me a very bleak picture **2** (espectáculo, panorama) scene, sight; **el campo de batalla ofrecía un** ~ **desolador** the battlefield presented a scene of devastation; **se complica el** ~ **político** the political picture is becoming complicated; **¡vaya (un) ~!** (familiar) what a sight!

Compuesto **cuadro de costumbres** description of local customs

C 1 (cuadrado) square, check; **tela a or de** ~ checked material; **tela de cuadritos** gingham; **zanahorias cortadas en cuadritos** diced carrots **2** (en un jardín) flowerbed **3** (en béisbol) diamond

D (Med) manifestations (*pl*); **el** ~ **patológico** the pathological manifestations; **presentan** ~ **bronquiales crónicos** their symptoms include chronic bronchial problems, they present with chronic bronchial problems (tech); **uno de los** ~ **s más frecuentes** one of the most common combinations of manifestations *o* symptoms

Compuesto **cuadro clínico** clinical manifestation, symptoms (*pl*)

⁴ It can be argued that *poison* is also used as an adjective. This use is listed in the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*. For our purposes, what is important about *poison* is that it is both a noun and a verb.

⁵ The representation of the dictionary entries is as true to the original as possible in terms of typeface and use of italics and boldface.

⁶ Here we reproduce without colours the print edition of Oxford 2008, which is also available on CD-ROM. Since S&S 1971 predates the advent of dictionaries on CD-ROM, the comparison is clearer if the two print editions are considered. We note that the entries in the printed edition of Oxford 2008 are not exactly the same as those on the CD-ROM; for example, some of the semantic labels (such as those referring to American English or British English) in the Spanish-English section are in English in the print version and in Spanish on the CD-ROM.

E (tablero) board, panel

Compuestos

cuadro de distribución control panel

cuadro de mandos or **instrumentos** (Auto) dashboard; (Aviac.) instrument panel

F (de bicicleta) frame

G (en una organización): **los ~s directivos del partido** the top party officials; **el grupo ha reestructurado sus ~s** the group has restructured its organization; **~ de profesionales** team of specialists o professionals; **los ~s medios de la empresa** the company's middle management; **los ~s inferiores de las fuerzas armadas** the junior officers in the armed forces

Compuesto **cuadros de mando** *mpl* (de un ejército) commanders (*pl*) , commanding officers (*pl*); (de una organización) leaders (*pl*); leading figures (*pl*)

H (Río de la Plata) (Deporte) team; **ser del otro ~** (Ur fam) to be gay

I **cuadros** *mpl* (Chi frml) (Indum) panties (*pl*) (AmE), briefs (*pl*) (BrE frml)

Larousse 2004

cuadro *nm* -1. (*pintura*) painting; **un ~ de Miró** a Miró, a painting by Miró; **~ al óleo** oil painting

-2. (*escena*) scene, spectacle; **después del terremoto, la ciudad presentaba un ~ desolador** alter the earthquake, the city was a scene of devastation; **¡vaya (un) ~ ofrecíamos tras la tormenta!** we were in a sorry state alter we ot caught in the storm!

-3. (*descripción*) portrait □ **~ de costumbres** = scene portraying regional customs

-4. (*cuadrado*) square; (de flores) bed; **una camisa a cuadros** a checked short; **un diseño a cuadros** a checked pattern; **una camisa de cuadros verdes** a green checked shirt □ **~ de saque** (en squash) service box

-5. (*equipo*) team; **el ~ visitante** the away team; **en este hospital hay un buen ~ médico o facultativo** the medical staff in this hospital are good; **el ~ directivo de una empresa** the management of a company; **los cuadros medios o intermedios de la administración** middle-ranking government officials □ **~ flamenco** flamenco group; **cuadros de mando** (*en ejército*) commanding officers; (*en organización*) highest-ranking officials; (*en empresa*) top management

-6. (*gráfico*) chart, diagram □ **~ sinóptico** tree diagram

-7. (*de bicicleta*) frame

-8. (*de aparato*) panel □ **~ de distribución** switchboard; **~ eléctrico** fuse box; **~ de instrumentos** (*en avión*) control panel; (*en automóvil*) dashboard; **~ de mandos** (*en avión*) control panel; (*en automóvil*) dashboard

-9. TEATRO scene □ **~ vivo** tableau vivant

-10. Med **~ (clínico)** symptoms; **presenta un ~ de extrema gravedad** her symptoms are extremely serious

-11. (*armazón*) framework

-12. MIL square formation

-13. INFORMÁT box □ **~ de cierre** close box; **~ de diálogo** dialog box

-14. Am (*matadero*) slaughterhouse

-15. **EXPR** **en ~: la empresa está en ~ tras la marcha del equipo directivo** the company has been caught seriously short after its entire management team left; **con la lesión de siete jugadores, el equipo se queda en cuadros** the team as been seriously weakened after the injuries to seven of its players; **Fam quedarse a cuadros: cuando me dijo que yo era el padre del bebé, me quedé a cuadros** I was completely floored when she told me that I was the father of the baby

Larousse 1983

cuadro, *dra* adj. (P. us.) Square (*cuadrado*).

—M. Square (*cuadrado*) . ||Picture, painting (*pintura*). ||IMPR. Platen. ||Patch, bed (de un jardín): *cuadro de flores*, flower bed. ||TEATR. Scene. ||Sight, scene: *la ciudad bombardeada ofrecía un cuadro desolador*, the bombed city was a sorry sight. ||Description, picture (*descripción*). ||Staff (conjunto del personal). ||Table, chart (*gráfico*). ||MIL. Officers and non-commissioned officers. ||Square (*formación*). ||Frame (*de una bicicleta*). ||Amer. Slaughterhouse (*matadero*). ||— *Cuadro de costumbres*, study of manners. ||*Cuadro de distribución*, switchboard. ||*Cuadro de instrumentos* or *de mandos*, dashboard, instrument panel (*de un coche*), instrument panel (*de un avión*). ||*Cuadro*

facultativo or *médico*, medical staff. ‖*Cuadro sinóptico*, chart, diagram. ‖*Cuadro sueco*, crossbeam for attaching gymnastic apparatus. ‖*Cuadro vivo*, tableau vivant. ‖*Dentro del cuadro de*, in the framework of. ‖*En cuadro*, in a square: *dispuestas en cuadro*, chairs arranged in a square. ‖FIG. *Quedarse en cuadro*, to be friendless (*estar abandonado*), to be greatly reduced in numbers (*de un conjunto de personas*), to be left with officers only (*de una unidad militar*). ‖*Tela de cuadros*, check or checked cloth. ‖Fam. ¡*Vaya un cuadro!*, what a sight!

S&S 1971

cuadro, ra, *a.* square. —*m.* 1. square, rectangle. 2. painting, picture; sight, scene, picture. 3. description, picture. 4. table, statistical chart, tabulation. 5. flower bed or patch. 6. (theat.) scene; tableau. 7. frame (of a picture, bicycle). 8. (astrol.) quartile aspect. 9. (print.) platen. 10. (mil.) square (formation); (mil.) care, officers of a regiment. 11. board, panel (of controls). — **a cuadros**, checkered, plaid (material); **c. al óleo**, oil painting; **c. anunciador**, indicator board; **c. comparado**, (acc., com.) comparative statement; **c. conmutador**, **c. de conmutadores** (elec., tel.) switchboard; **c. de fusibles**, fuseboard; **c. de gobierno**, control board or panel; **c. de mandos**, control panel; **c. de señales**, signal panel or board; **c. sinóptico**, synoptic table or chart; **c. vivo**, (theat.) tableau vivant; **en c.**, square; **estar or quedar en c.**, to be destitute or down and out; to be left with a command and no troops.

Figure 1. Entries for *cuadro* in Oxford 2008, Larousse 2004, Larousse 1983, and S&S 1971

We note that both S&S 1971 and Larousse 1983 list an adjectival use that is not registered in either Oxford 2008 or Larousse 2003, and that they list the historically earliest sense of the noun (corresponding to the meaning ‘square’) first. In contrast, the more recent Larousse 2004 and Oxford 2008 both list in first position the sense that, according to Davies (2005) is most frequent, that which is equivalent to ‘picture’ or ‘painting’, and in second position the sense used in describing a scene. The most striking differences between the older dictionaries and the more recent ones are the clearer presentation of sense differentiation, the higher number of translation contexts included, and the length of the examples included. We note, for example, that many of the translation equivalents in Oxford 2008 and Larousse 2004 are full clauses, whereas in Larousse 1983 and S&S 1971 they tend to be only single equivalents or, at most, a noun phrase (e.g., compare Oxford 2008 sense B with S&S 1971 senses (2) and (3) and the several translation equivalents given for *cuadro* in Oxford 2008, sense G and Larousse 2004, sense 5, in contrast with the single word ‘staff’ listed in Larousse 1983). There are some differences in coverage, most notably the listing of *cuadro de cierre* and *cuadro de diálogo* in Larousse 2004, which are absent from Oxford 2008. This absence seems odd, especially since these terms are commonplace but not discernable from the rest of the entry in Oxford 2008, as ‘box’ is not an equivalent listed.

Oxford 2008 makes a special effort to group together senses, as we see that a total of 14 senses are placed in 9 groups indicated by capital letters. In addition, it is interesting to note that Oxford 2008 labels as compounds (‘*compuesto*’) several phrases that are present in the other dictionaries but not labelled as such (e.g. *cuadro de mandos*, *cuadro de costumbres*, *cuadro sinóptico*). In contrast, S&S 1971 identifies 11 senses and lists 13 expressions the equivalents of which could be analyzed as compounds in English and one idiomatic expression. Senses are not ordered according to any discernable semantic organization and appear to coincide with the historical order of senses. The entry in S&S 1971 occupies much less printed space than in either Larousse 2004 or Oxford 2008, although it includes most of

the uses represented in the more recent dictionaries (the main exception to this observation is the sense of *cuadro* used in the field of medicine).

In Larousse 1983 the label in Spanish indicating the field of application is given after the equivalent, whereas in Larousse 2004 this same information is given in parentheses immediately after the number of sense and immediately before the equivalent (e.g., compare the placement of the label '*de una bicicleta*' in Larousse 1983 with that of '*(de bicicleta)*' in Larousse 2004. This type of information is provided in English in S&S 1971 and in Spanish in Oxford 2008.

A phrase or compound that might prove problematic for English speakers is *cuadro médico*, because *cuadro* can be the equivalent of 'symptoms' and can also be the equivalent of 'staff', as in the medical staff of a hospital or clinic. I believe Larousse 2004 makes this information clearer than Oxford 2008, as it includes *cuadro médico* in an example (see the second example in sense 5 of Larousse 2004). Oxford 2008 provides five examples of *cuadro* in the sense of 'staff' but does not include *cuadro médico*. Given that *cuadro* is used with two different senses in the same field, such information is useful for speakers who are not native speakers of Spanish.

4.2. Treatment of the word *hoyo*

S&S 1971

hoyo, *m.* **1.** hole, pit; grave, tomb. **2.** pockmark.

Collins 1971

hoyo nm (a) hole, pit; hollow, cavity; grave.
(b) (*Golf*) hole; **en el — 18** at the 18th hole.
(c) (*Med*) pockmark.
(d) (*Theat*) **irse al —** to flop (*fam*), be a disaster.

Collins 2003

hoyo SM **1** (=agujero) hole; **en el ~ 18** (*Golf*) at the 18th hole
2 (= *hondura*) pit
3 (= *tumba*) grave
4 (*Med*) pockmark
5 (= *hueco*) hollow, cavity
6 **MODISMO irse al ~** (Cono Sur) to get into an awful jam, face ruin; *ver tb* **muerto C2**

Oxford 2008

hoyo m **1** (agujero) hole **estar en el ~** (estar muy deprimido) (*fam*) to be in the depths (of despair); (Arg, Col, Ven arg) «reo» to be in solitary confinement **2** (en la tierra) hole; (depresión) hollow; (fosa) pit **3** (en golf) hole **4** (familiar) (sepultura) grave **5** (Chile vulgar) (ano) asshole (inglés norteamericano vulgar), arsehole (inglés británico vulgar)
compuesto **hoyo negro** (AmC, Mex) black hole

Figure 2. Entries for *hoyo* in S&S 1971, Collins 1971, Collins 2003, and Oxford 2008

The lumping together of literal and extended meanings in sense (1) of S&S 1971 and sense (a) of Collins 1971 contrasts with the sense divisions, accompanied by semantic indicators, given in Oxford 2008 and Collins 2003. Curiously, Oxford 2008 does not include the sense 'pockmark', which is given in the other three dictionaries, and the same phrasing '*en el hoyo*'

is associated with the context of golf in Collins 2003 and with despair, a figurative use, in Oxford 2008. The important difference to note is that the older dictionaries (S&S 1971 and Collins 1971) group together ‘hole’, ‘pit’, and ‘grave’ under a single sense, whereas the more recent dictionaries (Oxford 2008 and Collins 2003) present these as separate senses.

4.3. Treatment of the word *poison*

Collins 1971

poison [ˈpɔɪzn] 1 *n* veneno *m*; tóxico *m*; (*fig*) ponzoña *f*, veneno *m*; **to die of** — morir envenenado; **to take** — envenenarse.
2 *vt* envenenar; (*fig*) envenenar, emponzoñar; corromper.

S&S 1971

poison [ˈpɔɪzən] *s.*. 1. Veneno. 2. (*fig.*) ponzoña. 3. **To hate each other like p.**, odiarse amargamente; **what’s your p.? name your p.**, (*fam.*) ¿qué tomas? — *v.t.* 1. Envenenar. 2. (*fig.*) emponzoñar, envenenar, corromper, pervertir. — *a.* 1. Venenoso, ponzoñoso. 2. Envenenado (flecha, etc.). 3. (*fig.*) ponzoñoso.

Larousse 1983⁷

poison [—n] *n.* Veneno, *m.*, ponzoña, *f.*: *deadly poison*, veneno mortífero; *selfishness is the poison of mankind*, el egoísmo es el veneno de la humanidad. || — FIG *To hate like poison*, odiar a muerte. || FAM. *What’s your poison?*, ¿con qué te quieres envenenar?, ¿qué quieres tomar? (*drink*)
— Adj. Venenoso, *sa*; ponzoñoso, *sa* (*snake*, etc.). || Tóxico, *ca* (*gas*, *drug*, etc.). || — A *poison arrow*, una flecha envenenada. || *Poison hemlock*, *cicuta*, *f.*
poison [—n] *v tr.* Envenenar. || FIG. Envenenar, emponzoñar.

Collins 2003

poison [ˈpɔɪzn] **A** N (*lit, fig*) veneno *m*; **to die of** ~ morir envenenado; **to take** ~ envenenarse; **they hate each other like** ~ se odian a muerte; **♦IDIOM what’s your ~?*** (*hum*) ¿qué toma?
B VT **1** envenenar; (*chemically*) intoxicar; **the wells were ~ed** habían echado sustancias tóxicas a los pozos
2 (*fig*) envenenar, emponzoñar; **to ~ sb’s mind (against sth/sb)** envenenar la mente de algn (contra algo/algn); **a ~ed chalice** (*esp Brit*) un arma de doble filo
C CPD ► **poison gas** N *gas m* tóxico ► **poison ivy** N (= *plant*) hiedra *f* venenosa; (= *rash*) urticaria *f* ► **poison oak** (= *plant*) zumaque *m* venenoso; (*loosely*) = **poison ivy** ► **poison pen letter** N *anonimo m* ofensivo

Larousse 2004

poison [ˈpɔɪzən] *n* -1. (*chemical, of reptile*) veneno *m* ~ **gas** *gas m* tóxico; ~ **ivy** zumaque *m* venenoso; ~ **pen letter** anónimo *m* malicioso; ~ **sumach** zumaque *m* venenoso
-2. **IDIOMS** Fam he’s absolute ~! es un cerdo asqueroso; they hate each other like ~ se odian a muerte; Fam Hum what’s your ~? ¿qué tomas?
vt -1. (*person, food*) (*intentionally*) envenenar; (*accidentally*) intoxicar -2. (*pollute*) contaminar -3. **IDIOMS** **his arrival poisoned the atmosphere** su llegada estropeó el ambiente; **to ~ sb’s mind (against sb)** enemistar or encizañar a alguien (con alguien)

Oxford 2008⁸

⁷ In Larousse 1983, “[—n]” represents the pronunciation of the final syllable of *poison*.

⁸ The asterisk following *intoxicar* and *indisponer* in the entry for the verb *poison* indicates that the verb has some irregular verb forms.

poison¹ [ˈpɔɪzən] *n* [c u] veneno *m*; **rat** ~ matarratas *m*; **to take** ~ envenenarse; **to hate sb like** ~ odiar a alguien a muerte; **Spencer's name was ~ to him** no podía ni oír mencionar el nombre de Spencer; **what's your poison?** (*colloq & hum*) ¿qué vas a tomar?; (*before n*) ~ **gas** gas *m* tóxico
poison² *vt* 1] <person/animal> (with poison) envenenar; (make ill) intoxicar* 2] (infect) <blood> envenenar; <cut> infectar 3] (pollute) <river/soil> contaminar 4] (make poisonous) envenenar; **a ~d dart** un dardo envenenado 5] (corrupt) <mind/society> corromper; <relationship/atmosphere> dañar, estropear; **to ~ sb's mind against sb** indisponer* a algn contra algn

Figure 3. Entries for *poison* in Collins 1971, S&S 1971, Larousse 1983, Collins 2003, Larousse 2004, and Oxford 2008

We note that in comparison with Collins 1971, Collins 2003 includes much more phrasing and several frequent compounds. In addition, it includes the sense of producing toxic waste, which may not have been widely used previously and is thus absent from the 1971 edition. Both Collins dictionaries, and Larousse 2004, list the noun and the verb under a single headword, whereas Larousse 1983⁹ and Oxford 2008 list the noun and the verb under separate headwords.

5. Discussion

This limited glance at data from bilingual dictionaries produced at different periods provides us with some points that warrant discussion. The newer dictionaries attempt to structure entries in a clearer fashion, so that the entry does not appear as dense to the user. The more recent dictionaries present equivalents with more contextual information, and frequent multi-word units (such as *cuadro clínico* or *poison gas*) are highlighted.

While we observe that the Oxford Spanish Dictionary has opted to group senses together, it is not clear that the senses within a single entry have been ordered from more literal to more figurative, which is the practice in some monolingual English dictionaries published by Oxford; we note that the sense corresponding to *cuadro* (A) (the equivalent to ‘painting, picture’), which is the most frequent according to Davies (2005), is an extension of the sense given under (C), ‘square’.

The 2003 Collins dictionary also groups senses together, and in addition provides a mini-definition in the source language to introduce the equivalents (e.g. ‘*cuadro* 1] (= *cuadrado*) square [...]’). The mini-definition is ideally a synonym and graphically introduced by an equal sign. The mini-definitions given for senses (1), (2), (3) and (5) of *hoyo* can be considered synonyms; however, sometimes the mini-definition is not a synonym but rather a descriptor that helps to orient the user. For example, the entry for *establecimiento* (roughly ‘establishing’ or ‘establishment’) in Collins 2003 begins ‘*establecimiento* 1] (= *acto*) [establishment, setting-up, founding;...],’ but the semantic relationship between *establecimiento* and *acto* (‘act’) is not one of synonymy). Collins 2003, continuing the practice begun in Collins 1971, uses the label ‘*fig*’ to indicate figurative sense extensions. Although we have found that senses labelled ‘*fig*’ follow the literal sense, the use of this label is inconsistent. For example, we cannot explain why sense (2) of *poison*_[verb] is labelled figurative while the entry for the equivalent sense of *envenenar* is not:

envenenar ► conjug 1a ◀A] **vt** 1] (*con veneno*) to poison
 2] (= *amargar*) to embitter

⁹ We recall that Larousse 1983 and Larousse 2004 are completely different projects, despite the fact they share the same title.

B **envenenarse** VPR 1 (*voluntariamente*) to poison o.s., take poison
2 (*por accidente*) to be poisoned

Figure 4. Entry for *envenenar* in Collins 2003

Perhaps an even clearer example of inconsistency may be found in the entries for *yugo* ('yoke') and *yunque* ('anvil'): in the entry for *yugo*, the expression *sacudir el ~* 'to throw off the yoke' is labelled figurative, whereas in the entry for *yunque* the expression *hacer o servir de ~* 'to have to put up with hardships o abuse' is not. A more consistent representation of sense extension, I submit, would treat *sacudir el yugo* and *hacer/servir de yunque* in the same fashion.

Given that the newer dictionaries have all been published at a time in which corpus data for Spanish are available, it is interesting to compare the use of these words as represented in a corpus with the information provided by the dictionaries. Rather surprisingly, the influence of corpus analysis, particularly in terms of choosing which phrases warrant a translation equivalent in the dictionary, does not seem to be strong, at least for the three words analyzed in this paper.

Two corpora of English, the British National Corpus (BNC) and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) were consulted to corroborate the use of *poison*. Interestingly, the phrase *What's your poison*, which is specifically listed in all three more recent dictionaries, turns out to not be very frequent. Table 1 below shows the number of hits for this phrase and its variants with more than one hit in COCA:

Phrase	No. of hits, BNC	No. of hits, COCA
What's your poison?	3	4
Name your poison	0	4
Pick your poison	0	16
Choose your poison	0	5

Table 1. Number of hits for *What's your poison?* and variants

The sequence *poison pill*, which is a headword in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* (4th ed.) and forms part of the headword '*poison pill amendment*' in the *Concise Oxford American Dictionary*, occurs in fifth and sixth position in terms of hits for [*poison noun*] sequences¹⁰, yet is not listed in any of the bilingual dictionaries studied. The expression *poison pill* is usually restricted thematically to the fields of business and government and could be classified as figurative. Considering that the word *pill* has two commonplace equivalents in Spanish, *píldora* and *pastilla*, the fact that the equivalent in Spanish for *poison pill* is '*píldora venenosa*' (and not '*pastilla venenosa*') is information that should be listed in a comprehensive bilingual dictionary, especially given its frequency in English texts.

The corpus data yield a somewhat different picture of the use of *hoyo*. According to the Corpus del Español, the phrase '*en el hoyo*' in its figurative interpretation of being in despair was relatively common in the 16th-18th centuries (65 hits), and then apparently fell out of use, as there are no hits in the corpus for the 20th century. (We note that the sequence '*en el hoyo*' occurs in the 20th century (14 hits), but it either refers to a physical pit or to a hole on a golf

¹⁰ In COCA, the phrase *poison pill* occurs in fifth position in number of hits and *poison pills*, in sixth. The [*poison noun*] sequence with the highest number of hits is *poison gas* (289 hits), followed by *poison ivy* (280 hits).

course.) It seems odd, then, to see this expression with a figurative interpretation included in the first sense listed in Oxford 2008.

Finally, we have looked at corpus evidence for some of the phrasing given for the word ‘cuadro’. Curiously, the phrase ‘*cuadro de mandos*’ has only 1 hit in the Corpus del Español, yet it is listed in all the dictionaries studied. This may be due to the nature of the texts in the Corpus del Español, because this expression is in current use, at least in Iberian Spanish.

5. Concluding remarks

The structure of entries in the bilingual dictionaries analyzed in this paper provides a clearer view of changes in Spanish-English/English-Spanish dictionaries over the past 40 years. There have been substantial changes in presentation to facilitate use. The three more recent dictionaries all exhibit increased coverage of phraseology, especially in comparison with S&S 1971 and Collins 1971, although some phrases that are listed with translation equivalents are not frequent in contemporary usage. Although it is impossible to venture conclusive statements on the basis of a very small sample, the more recent dictionaries list more frequent senses first.

We believe that there are several implications of our study and here would like to point up two. First, bilingual dictionaries, like other types of dictionaries, are increasingly consulted on-line or on CD-ROM. Certain features made available by technology, such as ease of consulting cross-references, have been incorporated into many dictionaries. Nevertheless, there are other issues in lexicography that need to be reconsidered in the light of consultations that people view on a computer screen. It remains to be seen how the organization of senses and equivalents, which in print dictionaries is necessarily linear, is best adapted to a format in which linear progression and space are much less important. To date, the versions of the newer dictionaries on CD-ROM replicate the print editions but do not attempt to visualize the intricate details of partial equivalence, the representation of which might be improved by using mapping software. Neither Collins 2003 nor Oxford 2008, both of which are available on CD-ROM, attempt to represent partial equivalence. Future electronic bilingual dictionaries might consider incorporating a visual representation of the varying stages of equivalence and other meaning relationships, such as that used in the Visual Thesaurus®, or perhaps software with a three-dimensional display of content. As Alsina and DeCesaris (2002) showed, and as discussed at length in Adamska-Sałaciak (2006), overlapping polysemy can be a commonplace occurrence for some language pairs and very often the result of overlapping polysemy in a bilingual dictionary is repetition of a particular equivalent. Examples of this phenomenon are the entries for *poison* in Oxford 2008 and Collins 2003, in which the equivalent *envenenar* is given several times. The change from printed book to computer screen has other implications for bilingual dictionaries as well. The representation of inflected forms presumably will change dramatically. Currently, as seen in the S&S 1971 entry for *cuadro* included above, the headword form for adjectives with grammatical gender is the masculine form, and the final syllable of the adjective follows the headword to show the feminine form. Showing partial word forms, which are often difficult for users to understand, does not seem warranted in a digital context because lack of space is no longer a concern. For example, and to mention only two possible ways of representing inflectional paradigms, either all forms could be listed as headwords or the default masculine form could be shown in a certain typeface or color indicating that the user needs to click on the form to see the remaining forms. Over ten years ago, Hartmann and James (1998:15) stated that “Computer technology is likely to improve existing bilingual formats and to develop new ones in [the]

future,” but to date relatively few improvements in bilingual formats for the English/Spanish can be attributed to technology.

A second implication of this study for future bilingual dictionaries is related to the use of corpora. Our analysis of corpus data showed that some phrases listed in these three entries and given translation equivalents are not frequent in current English (the case of ‘*What’s your poison?*’ or current Spanish (the case of ‘*estar en el hoyo*’ outside the context of golf). I would suggest that one way that use of corpora could be incorporated into bilingual lexicography is to use monolingual corpora to help to determine which phrases merit inclusion and translation equivalents. Use of a monolingual corpus of current English, for example, would have alerted lexicographers to ‘*poison pill*’. Likewise, use of a monolingual corpus of Spanish may have made lexicographers question the necessity of including ‘*cuadro de mandos*’, which in current usage has very low frequency.

Finally, I would like to point up the fact that the English/Spanish combination is extremely fortunate to have so many good, comprehensive bilingual dictionaries available; there are many language combinations for which there are limited bilingual resources. Even though Spanish is the native language of hundreds of millions of speakers around the world, is widely studied as a foreign language in Europe, North America and Asia and is thus likely to be the object of large bilingual dictionary projects, there are many combinations of Spanish with an official EU language for which only a concise bilingual dictionary is available. The need for more and better bilingual dictionary resources is clear, and we hope that observations like those included here will be helpful to lexicographers as they structure entries for future dictionaries.

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