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Subjective Subjunctive?

Contrastive Analysis as a Tool©

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This session will focus on why a professional translator must conduct a deep analysis of the source text (e.g., the meaning, grammar, the writer's intention, etc.). Analyzing the text is the most critical stage in any translation activity. Professional translators must also pay special attention to the structural differences between the source and target language (e.g., contrastive studies between the English and Spanish counterparts).

Learning Objectives:

After this session, participants will be able to:

1. To approach the "problem" of translation with different tools.
2. To expand knowledge of Spanish and English's morphosyntactic and semantic structures.
3. To work on reading comprehension and critical ability by comparing the English and Spanish languages.
4. To analyze similarities and differences by applying the theoretical framework in translation practice.

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English doesn't have a robust subjunctive mood like many other languages (e.g., Spanish, French). Instead, it uses a *reduced* subjunctive, often indicated by a subtle shift in verb form or, more commonly, through context. The forms are not dramatically different from the indicative mood.

The most common instances where the subjunctive *might* be considered present in English are:

- **"That" clauses expressing wishes, demands, suggestions, or requests:** Here, the base form of the verb is often used, especially after verbs like *suggest, request, demand, require, recommend, ask, propose, urge, it is vital, it is essential*.
 - **Indicative:** He suggested that he *goes* home. (Incorrect)
 - **Subjunctive:** He suggested that he *go* home. (Correct)
 - **Indicative (also correct, but less formal):** He suggested that he *should go* home.
- **Hypothetical or counterfactual situations (often with "were"):** This is more clearly distinct from the indicative.
 - **Indicative:** If I *was* a bird, I would fly. (Incorrect in formal English)
 - **Subjunctive:** If I *were* a bird, I would fly. (Correct)
- **Formal expressions of wishes or blessings:**
 - **Subjunctive:** Long *live* the King!

Contrastive Analysis as a Tool©: Contrastive analysis is an instrument or, rather, a set of tools that helps us to:

- 1) Understand the meaning of the text.
- 2) Discover hidden meanings or ambiguity in the source language.
- 3) Choose a word or phrase and justify the rationale for that choice
- 4) Using or avoiding ambiguity when translating it into the target language
- 5) Detecting an error in a translation
- 6) Explaining the reason for the error

Linguists give us the justifications of "why" to use a word or phrase, but contrastive analysis provides us with the justification to know how to make the right choice.

It is essential to know that to understand the meaning of the effectiveness of comparing structures, it is necessary:

1. To know the grammar of the languages we are dealing with.
2. To analyze or compare structures with a broader power of discernment.

Why are these two things needed?

1. because the rules are flexible
2. the realities are not always the same, and
3. languages change, and so do customs and usages.

The subjunctive mood is essential to expressing volition in both English and Spanish. It allows speakers to articulate desires, make requests, issue commands, and explore hypothetical scenarios, enhancing communication's richness. Understanding this mood is crucial for mastering the nuances of expression related to willpower and intention in these languages. Volition (willpower) means wanting, ordering, demanding, preferring, wishing, or telling someone else to do something.

Verbs of Volition: advise, agree, ask, beg, command, decree, demand, direct, **insist**, intend, order, plead, pray, prefer, propose, recommend, request, rule, stipulate, suggest, urge.

ORIGINAL	Spanish Translations (ambiguity)
He insists that SHE go (SUBJ) to church every day.	1) Insiste que vaya (SUBJ) a la iglesia todos los días. 2) Insiste quea la iglesia todos los días.

BUT

In the following example, there are two different meanings and two possible translations:

ORIGINAL	Traducción
They are looking for someone who plays the guitar.	1. 2.