



## A University Handbook on Terminology and Specialized Translation

**Noa Talaván Zanón.**

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This book brings together two key concepts in the field of translation: “terminology” and “specialized translation”. The author, Noa Talaván, adopts a practical approach in this handbook, which is also written in a very clear and fluent style, since it addresses university students.

The theoretical aspects are presented in a concise but academic way. In this sense, the author focuses mainly on defining the main concepts and on highlighting the key ideas arising from several topics, so the handbook is easy to follow by students. The explanations are based on the real needs of a future translator, and, in this line, the tasks proposed after each section are also very useful to link theory and practice, and to implement the contents into the real practice of translation.

The book is divided into five modules, dealing with general approaches to the concept of “terminology” and with a more specific knowledge on different specialized languages. Each module consists of several sections relevant for the study. The structure followed in every module is very similar and this helps the student not to get lost while reading.

Each module starts with an introduction to the key elements that will be analysed in the module and, for that purpose, the goals are stated. After introducing the module, each theoretical section ends with a task, closely related to the explanation that has been seen previously and which is helpful for students to put that theory into practice and to process the information. At the end of the module a brief summary or conclusion can be found, summarizing the main concepts and how the goals were achieved.

In the reference section the literature used by the author to write the information is presented. All references are of paramount importance in the field of Terminology and Translation.

The key to the exercises is very helpful as students can work with this book in an autonomous way and do the proposed exercises on their own and at their own path. It is rather difficult to find this kind of key-to-exercises when dealing with open tasks. Hence, the proposals offered by the author are really useful for the students not only to find the right answers but also to compare them with their own productions.

Regarding the content, in Module 1 the author highlights the importance of knowing basic concepts on Terminology in order to translate specialized texts, as they contain specialized terms. For that reason, she defines the concept of Terminology and its different meanings, the users who take part in this field and the main terminological resources, which may be grouped according to five criteria: main goal, potential addressees, topics, support/medium and number of languages. Furthermore, she adds a series of quality criteria for using terminological resources.

In Module 2 the author confirms the idea that the huge amount of information existing nowadays in every specialized field needs an effective management of the data. First, the author limits the concept of specialized languages as opposed to general, standard or artificial languages. The main feature characterizing specialized languages is the fact of containing specialized terms or terminological units. For this reason, it is important to explain, as the author does, how terms are created and how to deal with new terms, such as borrowings and calques, typically used in specialized languages. The author finishes the module offering some principles of terminological practice, which make clear the role of translators and terminologist when dealing with terms.

Module 3, devoted to translation practice, offers strategies to take into account when facing some linguistic or cultural problems, such as “domestication” or “foreignization”. Another relevant aspect when translating is the process of documentation. The author proposes some classifications and assessment criteria to bear in mind. The module concludes with the role of some resources as Computer Assisted Translations (CAT) and Machine Translations (MT), which may help the translators. This module provides students with a series of strategies and tools to start the process of translation in a professional and systematic way.

Modules 4 and 5 are devoted to specialized translation. On the one hand, the author talks about humanistic texts, the language of tourism, advertising texts and audiovisual translation. On the other hand, the author deals with

scientific and technical texts, the language of law and administration and the language of finance, which are dealt separately as the presence of specialized lexical units, or terms, is higher in the second group. The structure followed is similar: Noa Talaván starts by defining the concept, the types of translations in each field, their main characteristics, and then she offers translation strategies which may happen to be very useful when translating this kind of texts. She pays more attention to describing the role of “audiovisual translation”, formerly considered within the scope of specialized translation but nowadays accepted as an independent area in translation studies. Due to the main objective of the handbook, the author focuses on the lexical aspects of every specialized language.

In conclusion, this book can be considered an important introduction to the fields of Terminology and Translation in specialized languages. Hence, the work is of great interest for university students both from Translation and Interpreting studies and from other areas in which the use of specialized languages take part.

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