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THE TRANSLATION OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY MEDICAL DICTIONARIES PUBLISHED IN SPAIN AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE DISSEMINATION OF SCIENCE

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Introduction

Fortunately, at this point in the twenty-first century, there is no need to insist that reconstructing the history of scientific vocabulary is necessary to our understanding of the history of scientific concepts and the lexicon of a language. The vocabulary that shapes a language cannot be solely based on common and literary texts; it must also take scientific texts into account. Treatises, handbooks, manuals, monographs, and various types of lexicographical repertoires, including dictionaries, glossaries, and vocabularies, provide us with valuable information on scientific vocabulary in the past. This chapter highlights the significance of specialized lexicographical compendia, rarely used as a basis for research.[1]

This is certainly regrettable, as they provide a wealth of valuable information. As McConchie puts it, 'dictionaries themselves and those who compiled them remain largely in the outer darkness. (…) [T]he whole area remains a goldmine of rich research pickings' (2014). They are indeed an excellent source of knowledge about various historical periods, offering a route to refining generalized ideas regarding intellectual or scientific pursuits, and helping trace the evolution and dissemination of various medical doctrines. For instance, they enable us to measure the success or failure of a term or group of terms associated with a particular theory, among many other aspects.

These compendia essentially served to collect words over time. But they also had a decisive role in shaping technical vocabulary, especially at times when the translation of scientific texts was a widespread activity that occupied renowned scientists. In these cases, in addition to a *notarial* function,

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i.e. recording word use and established meaning, these dictionaries also promoted certain usages, and such works contain the first traceable written record of numerous terms. Analysing this type of work from both a translatological and historical perspective can therefore yield valuable information for the study of the history of science and the evolution of medical terminology.

The following pages offer a comprehensive overview of the lexicographic context in the medical field in nineteenth-century Spain. We examine the challenges faced by translators of French and German works into Spanish and discuss the role of translation in the Spanish context and its impact on the history of Spanish medicine. The last section presents the *Tesoro Lexicográfico Médico* [Spanish Medical Lexicographic Thesaurus] computer tool, a valuable resource for scholars of all disciplines interested in exploring the evolution of scientific language – including through translation. The vast *TeLeMe* lexicographic database offers a unique opportunity to investigate the intricacies of scientific language and its development over time, shedding new light on the cultural and historical context of scientific discourse.

Types of Medical Dictionary in Nineteenth-Century Spain

The technical repertoires focused on in this chapter are those produced and published in the medical field in Spain. During the nineteenth century, there was an extraordinary boom in the development of technical lexicographical repertoires in Europe, particularly in France and Germany, spreading to other countries, including Spain. These repertoires were heterogeneous in form and content, as their purposes and recipients did not always coincide.

This type of work allows for various classification criteria (Figure 6.1).

Lexicographic works can be divided into terminological and encyclopaedic dictionaries (Dechambre 1864; Gutiérrez Rodilla 1999: 34). The former have been called 'word dictionaries', 'lexicons', and 'vocabularies'. This type of lexicographic work did not enjoy much success in France but flourished in Spain, meeting a clear need to name the new concepts and theories being developed north of the Pyrenees. No repertoire of this type was translated into Spanish, while several original ones were published: Manuel Hurtado de Mendoza's terminological dictionary of medicine stands out as the first such published in Spain, as early as 1840 (Hurtado de Mendoza 1840; on this dictionary, see Gutiérrez Rodilla 2012a and 2017). Encyclopaedic dictionaries, also called 'dictionaries of things' or 'realias', were the most widespread format in France and Germany (Gutiérrez Rodilla 1999: 34). In Spain, original medical dictionaries of this kind were not unknown: examples include Antonio de Ballano's *Diccionario de Medicina y Cirugía* [Dictionary of Medicine and Surgery] (1805–7) and Manuel Hurtado de

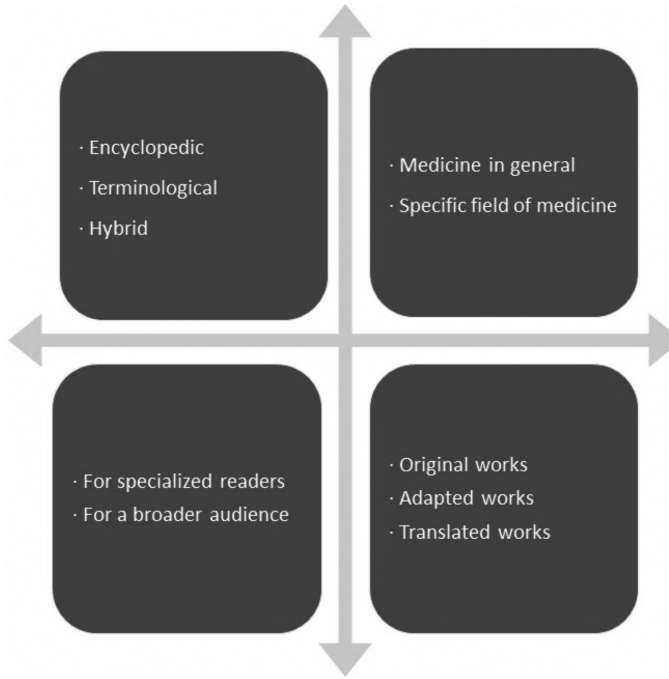

FIGURE 6.1 Types of Dictionaries Depending on the Classification Criteria Applied.

Source: The authors

Mendoza and Celedonio Martínez Caballero's *Diccionario de Medicina y Cirugía* [Dictionary of Medicine and Surgery] (1820–23) (on this particular dictionary, see Gutiérrez Rodilla 2012b). However, the majority of medical dictionaries available in Spain were translations from French and German. There was also a rare third type combining the first two approaches, in which concise definitions characteristic of terminological vocabularies were included alongside typical encyclopaedic definitions. One such is Ángel de Larra y Cerezo's *Diccionario de bolsillo de Medicina y Cirugía y Farmacia* [Pocket Dictionary of Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy] (1894), in which purely terminological definitions are found alongside encyclopaedic ones.

A second criterion for the classification of lexicographic works from this period is the specialized subject matter they covered. Medical reference works can be divided into general dictionaries of medicine, such as the aforementioned works by Ballano (1805–07) and Larra y Cerezo (1894), and dictionaries pertaining to a very specific medical field, such as Manuel Hurtado de Mendoza's *Enciclopedia de terapéutica* [Encyclopaedia of Therapeutics] (1847) and Javier Pongiolioni's *Vocabulario de Sintomatología* [Vocabulary

of Symptomatology] (1895). In fact, the commonest specific medical dictionaries of the century published in Spain were on the topic of therapeutics (see Gutiérrez Rodilla 2022: 159–60).

One further aspect to be considered is that of the intended audience: some dictionaries addressed specialists, while others addressed the general public. Even within those aimed at a specialized audience, a distinction can be made between those specifically targeted at medical professionals and ones targeted at other types of professionals, such as legal specialists or public health authorities. This is evident if we compare, for example, the *Diccionario manual antropológico para inteligencia de los reconocimientos facultativos en lesiones corporales* [Anthropological Dictionary for Understanding Medical Assessments of Bodily Injuries] (1853) by José Vázquez de Quevedo and the *Diccionario de las sustancias alimenticias, con sus alteraciones y sofisticaciones* [Dictionary of Food Substances, their Alterations and Adulterations] (1877) by Francisco Javier Ágreda (on this type of dictionary, see Gutiérrez Rodilla 2018a and 2018b). One last criterion is the one that interests us most in this chapter – whether the dictionary was originally written in Spanish or translated and/or adapted from another language.

Translating Medical Dictionaries in Nineteenth-Century Spain

Of all these types of repertoires, the ones that were translated the most – at least in Spain – were encyclopaedic in nature, for an audience of medical specialists. Alongside a handful of dictionaries of this type originally written in Spanish, such as the works by Ballano (1805–7) and Hurtado de Mendoza and Martínez Caballero (1820–23), around 15 repertoires were imported in translation from France and, to a lesser extent, Germany. Examples include the *Dictionnaire des sciences médicales* [Dictionary of Medical Sciences], compiled by several authors and published in Paris between 1812 and 1822, published in Spanish as *Diccionario de Ciencias Médicas* [Dictionary of the Medical Sciences] (1821–27), and the *Diccionario enciclopédico de medicina y cirugía prácticas* [Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Practical Medicine and Surgery] (1885–91), based on Albert Eulenburg's *Real-Encyclopädie der gesamten Heilkunde: Medizinisch-chirurgisches Handwörterbuch für praktische Ärzte* [*Complete Encyclopaedia of Medicine: Medical-Surgical Dictionary for General Practitioners*] (1880–83).

Understanding how these works were used means exploring what led their authors to plan and publish them and the impact they had in nineteenth-century Spain. These encyclopaedic repertoires were an attempt to compile medical knowledge from various areas of medicine, drawn from extant manuals. They were up-to-date medical handbooks, arranged in alphabetical order, providing professionals with the most up-to-date review of medical texts. This is evident in the great length of the articles and in

the terms they included, which do not aim for full terminological coverage but rather focus on terms whose content had undergone significant change in recent times. The French and German originals ran to multiple volumes in an attempt to cover the entire field: Albert Eulenburg's German encyclopaedic dictionary (1880–83) grew from 15 volumes in its first edition (Eulenburg 1880–83) to 22 in the second and 27 in the third.

The number of volumes could also increase when such dictionaries were translated into Spanish: one example is Ambroise-Auguste Tardieu's *Dictionnaire d'hygiène publique et de salubrité* [Dictionary of Public Hygiene and Sanitation] (1852–54), which went from three volumes in its original French version to five in the Spanish edition, titled *Diccionario de Higiene pública y salubridad* [Dictionary of Public Hygiene and Sanitation] (1882–85). However, the opposite was also true, as the translation could shrink: the *Dictionnaire des sciences médicales* [Dictionary of Medical Sciences] (1821–27) went from 60 volumes in French to 39 in Spanish. These were not the only formal changes resulting from the translation process, which also on occasion included new figures and engravings not present in the original. José Sáenz Criado's Spanish translation of Tardieu's dictionary added 65 new engravings for didactic purposes (Gutiérrez Rodilla 2022: 158). The dictionaries were translated by renowned physicians, who adapted the content to the target culture. This is evident from the title page of the translated works: in the Spanish translation of Eulenburg's dictionary (Figure 6.2), the name of the translator is more prominently displayed than that of the original author.

The process of adaptation is also announced on the title page: 'Traducido directamente y arreglado para uso de los médicos españoles' ['Directly translated and arranged for the use of Spanish physicians']. It was not uncommon for translators to add, modify, or suppress information from the original works, in part due to the fact that some content had become obsolete by the time the translations were published.

Four major types of adaptation can be identified (Gutiérrez Rodilla and Quijada Diez 2015: 202–6). These involve: 1) synthesizing the content to reduce the number of volumes in the target edition; 2) updating the content in an attempt to mitigate the time gap between the original and the translation; 3) expanding or substituting the content in order to adapt it to the interests of the Spanish-speaking audience; and 4) correcting original information deemed incorrect or anti-Spanish.

As discussed, the *Dictionnaire des sciences médicales* (1812–22; translated into Spanish as *Diccionario de ciencias médicas*, 1821–27) is a particularly noteworthy example of textual shortening, going from 60 volumes in French to just 39 in Spanish. Equally noteworthy is the fact that the Spanish publishers had initially announced just 12 volumes. In the preface to the Spanish edition, the translators discussed the difficulties they faced:


DICCIONARIO ENCICLOPÉDICO

DE

MEDICINA Y CIRUGÍA

PRÁCTICAS

ESCRITO EN ALEMAN BAJO LA DIRECCION

DE

Dr. J. Eulenburg

TRADUCIDO DIRECTAMENTE Y ARREGLADO PARA USO DE LOS MÉDICOS ESPAÑOLES

POR EL

Dr. D. Isidoro de Miguel y Viguri

PRECEDIDO DE UN PRÓLOGO

POR EL

Dr. D. Cirilo María Cortejo

ILUSTRADO CON NUMEROSOS GRABADOS

TOMO I

A.—BALANITIS.

MADRID

AGUSTIN JUBERA, EDITOR

1884

FIGURE 6.2 Cover Page of the Spanish Translation of Albert Eulenburg's Dictionary.

Source: Biblioteca Nacional de España

> [N]o se trataba solamente de traducir: las mas veces era necesario antes examinar cada artículo cotejándole con otros publicados posteriormente, y ver si estos contenían verdaderos progresos, si se podían reducir o simplemente suprimir.
>
> *(1821–27: 1)*

> [It was not just about translating – most of the time it was necessary to first examine each article by comparing it with others published later, and see if these contained true advances, if they could be reduced, or simply eliminated.][2]

Another interesting example is the French *Dictionnaire de médecine et répertoire général des sciences médicales* [Dictionary of Medicine and General Repertoire of Medical Sciences] (1832–44), translated into Spanish by various authors as the *Diccionario de Medicina y Cirugía* (1851–55), which saw a reduction from 29 volumes to just eight in the translated edition (Gutiérrez

Rodilla 1999: 49–50). These reductions in size were not arbitrary, but rather economic in origin. The works were purchased by subscription, making it difficult for interested readers to commit financially to a high number of volumes, especially considering the likelihood that the later volumes would already be obsolete by the time of publication.

The second type of adaptation, involving the updating of content, is closely related to the first. Considerable time could elapse between the publication of the first and last volumes of the original – 12 years in the case above – to which must be added the time it took to translate and publish the work in Spanish. Medicine continued to advance in the meantime, quickly rendering these works obsolete. Translators would therefore update the original text by adding information from later works. An example can be found in the lemma 'choléra' [cholera] in Tardieu's *Dictionnaire d'hygiène publique* [Dictionary of Public Hygiene] (1852–54) and its Spanish translation *cólera*: the lemma took up 51 pages in the French edition, increasing nearly fourfold in the Spanish version to 220 (*Diccionario de Higiene pública y salubridad*, 1882–85). The translator decided to add a significant amount of new information about the disease, published after the original dictionary came out. An equally illustrative example can be found in the Spanish translation of the German dictionary *Handbuch der speciellen Pathologie und Therapie* [Handbook of Special Pathology and Therapy] (Ziemssen 1874–85). The Spanish translator and physician Francisco Vallina frequently incorporated his own notes into the body of the text, making them difficult to distinguish from the original text as they are not indicated as footnotes (Quijada Diez 2018). Vallina was well versed in the latest medical advances and deemed it crucial to incorporate updated information into the translation. For instance, he added information published in 1885, nine years after the source text, as seen in the following translator's note:

> Möbius (Vortrag in der Leipziger med. Gesellschaft, Marzo, 1885. – Deutsche Medicinal-Zeitung, 1885) rechaza la opinión, por casi todos aceptada, de que la hemicránea deba atribuirse á una afección del simpático.
>
> *(Ziemssen 1887–98, 8th volume of the Spanish edition, 1888: 30)*

> [Möbius (Vortrag in der Leipziger med. Gesellschaft, March, 1885. - Deutsche Medicinal-Zeitung, 1885) rejects the opinion, accepted by almost everyone, that hemicrania should be attributed to a sympathetic affection.]

Similarly, it was common practice for Spanish translators to expand or replace original content to adapt it to the interests of the target audience,

a process now known as localization. The aforementioned translator Sáenz Criado explained the reasons for such adaptations in his version of Tardieu's dictionary:

> La sola traducción de este libro no hubiera satisfecho enteramente las necesidades y aspiraciones de nuestros colegas: primero, por carecer de muchos conocimientos posteriores á su publicacion; segundo, por prescindir en absoluto de España, falta de que, por lo comun, adolecen las publicaciones extranjeras.
>
> *(Sáenz Criado 1882, in his 'Advertencia' [foreword] to the Spanish translation, vol. I: 771)*

> [Merely translating this book would not have fully satisfied the needs and aspirations of our colleagues: first, due to the lack of considerable knowledge acquired after its publication; second, by completely ignoring Spain, a deficiency that foreign publications usually suffer from.]

This localization was often seen in sections of dictionaries that referred to legislation or public health issues specific to the country of origin. Geographic locations where the best medicinal waters could be found to treat a particular condition were often included. The translators of Ziemssen's German dictionary even announced the inclusion of a table detailing the locations of medicinal mineral waters in Spain, as requested by subscribers to the Spanish edition:

> Accediendo al deseo manifestado por varios suscritores, ponemos á continuación un cuadro de las aguas minero-medicinales extranjeras citadas en las enfermedades del aparato respiratorio de esta obra y las equivalentes de España.
>
> *(Ziemssen 1887–98, vol. 3 of the Spanish edition: 914–15)*

> [In response to the request expressed by several subscribers, we provide below a table of foreign medicinal mineral waters mentioned in this work for respiratory diseases, along with their equivalents in Spain.]

The fourth category of adaptation involves corrections to content in the original works deemed incorrect or even anti-Spanish. One case in point is Manuel Jiménez's translation of the *Dictionnaire des dictionnaires de médecine français et étrangers* [Dictionary of French and Foreign Medical Dictionaries] (1839–41), directed by F. Fabre, published in Spanish under the title *Diccionario de los diccionarios de Medicina* [Dictionary of Medical Dictionaries] (Fabre 1842–46). The translator found it expedient to correct

some errors or inaccuracies in the original text regarding Spanish medicine. The original work stated in its lemma on the childhood ailment croup that 'aucun médecin espagnol ne l'a décrit' [no Spanish physician has described it] (Fabre, vol. 3, s.v. *croup*: 167). In his Spanish translation, Jiménez added:

> No podrá menos de llamar la atención de los lectores la candidez con que el autor de este Diccionario manifiesta ignorar los autores españoles que han escrito sobre el crup, aunque con distinto nombre; por lo que nosotros [...] no podemos menos de poner a continuación la lista de algunos autores españoles antiguos que han escrito sobre esta materia, para dar una prueba al doctor Fabre y colaboradores del Diccionario de los pocos conocimientos que poseen respecto á autores españoles antiguos que han escrito de medicina [...].
>
> *(Jiménez, 1842–46, III, s. v.* crup*: 137)*

> [Readers will undoubtedly be struck by the author of this dictionary's naiveté in admitting his ignorance of Spanish authors who have written about croup, albeit under a different term. Therefore, we cannot help but provide a list of some Spanish authors of old who have written on this subject, to demonstrate to Dr Fabre and the collaborators on the dictionary the limited knowledge they possess regarding Spanish authors of old who have written on medicine.]

This represents another singular adaptation made by Spanish translators: for instance, in the Spanish translation of two German works – the aforementioned dictionaries by Ziemssen (1887–98) and Eulenburg (1885–91) – the translators deemed it appropriate to supplement the bibliographical information by adding references to Spanish works and authors not found in the original texts. There were even some other, more surprising cases of adaptation, such as the complete elimination of paragraphs, entries, and even entire volumes. Was the aim perhaps to conceal from the Spanish public information that was not entirely in line with the morals of the time (Gutiérrez Rodilla and Quijada Diez 2017: 195)? This may be why the Spanish edition of Ziemssen's dictionary left out the entire volume on the female reproductive organs, *Krankheiten der weiblichen Geschlechtsorgane* [Diseases of Female Sex Organs].

Undoubtedly, encyclopaedic dictionaries of medicine, regardless of their origin and size, aimed to help readers keep up to date with the latest medical advancements, without the need to purchase and read all the works in which new discoveries or theories were constantly being published (Gutiérrez Rodilla 2012b: 470). Something similar had happened in the previous century, due to the expansion of knowledge linked to the Age of Enlightenment and its 'dictionaries of arts and sciences' (Yeo 2001: 60). The emergence of

medical encyclopaedism in France during the mid-eighteenth century and its continuation into the first decades of the nineteenth century – the golden age of French medicine – was no coincidence. It also flourished during the last decades of the nineteenth century in Germany, by then the most important centre for the development of medicine, remaining so until at least the 1930s. In this regard, it is not surprising that this type of encyclopaedic work achieved the greatest growth during the nineteenth century, and one of its functions was to introduce and disseminate new scientific ideas throughout Europe.

However, as previously discussed, the very large lapses of time between the publication of the original work and the task of translating put an end to more than one encyclopaedic work in Spain (Gutiérrez Rodilla and Quijada Diez 2021). This occurred at a time when the phenomenon of encyclopaedism was already starting to give way to specialized journals, which became a much more effective (and cheaper) way to allow physicians to stay up to date with the latest news and discoveries in their fields of expertise.

Using Translated Medical Dictionaries to Assess the Dissemination of Medical Terms and Concepts

Lexicographical works can be of considerable use in assessing the dissemination of medical ideas and terminology and in reconstructing the history of medicine. They should be considered reliable sources with the same status as archival documents, newspapers, monographs, journal articles, and the like. A detailed analysis can provide valuable information that cannot be gathered elsewhere.

Let us take, for instance, some specific medical fields. The nineteenth century was not just the great century of specialized lexicography. It was also the century that saw the emergence of specific fields of medical expertise, such as public hygiene and legal medicine, together with the creation of their own university professorships, medical manuals, monographs, and so on (Albarracín Teulón 1973, Carrillo Martos 1996, López Piñero 1992). The new specialisms were, of course, reflected in lexicography (Gutiérrez Rodilla 2018a and 2018b). For one thing, it encouraged the composition of independent texts focusing specifically on these disciplines. For another, it left its mark on general medical dictionaries produced throughout the period, which already included various entries devoted to concepts and approaches specific to these subjects, sometimes even with the specific field labelling such as *Med. leg.* for legal medicine or *Hig.* for words related to hygiene. To cite just one example, the *Diccionario de Medicina y Cirugia prácticas* [Dictionary of Practical Medicine and Surgery] (1838–44), was translated into Spanish from the *Dictionnaire de médecine et de chirurgie pratiques* (1829–36). This Spanish translation devotes 42 pages to the term *asfixia*

[asphyxia], which indicates an interest in providing data to help medical professionals to make legal decisions which would later guide judges and those responsible for administering justice.

These and other dictionaries contain a whole arsenal of overlooked information, as, inexplicably, very few medical-historical works have used them as sources. Yet, nineteenth-century medical dictionaries contain information that sometimes cannot be found anywhere else. For instance, much of what the French professor of legal medicine Alphonse Chevallier wrote in his *Dictionnaire des altérations et falsifications des substances alimentaires, médicamenteuses et commerciales avec l'indication des moyens de les reconnaitre* [Dictionary of Alterations and Falsifications of Food, Medicinal, and Commercial Substances with the Indication of Means to Recognise them] (1850–52) was printed nowhere else, so that historians tracing the history of food fraud must use this dictionary if they do not want to overlook some of the most important information on the subject. This dictionary was translated into Spanish by Ramón Ruíz Gómez as *Diccionario de las alteraciones y falsificaciones de las sustancias* [Dictionary of Alterations and Falsifications of Substances] (1854–55).

The disregard for this type of works by linguists and historians is also perplexing given that certain dictionaries contain the earliest references to particular concepts or theories. Not until 1884 did the Royal Spanish Academy language dictionary include terms such as *acupuntura* [acupuncture] or *erotomania* [erotomania], both included in several previous Spanish medical dictionaries such as the aforementioned *Dictionnaire des sciences médicales*, as shown by the *TeLeM*e tool.

On other occasions, what these translated dictionaries reveal is the failure of their translators to identify the concepts they were attempting to translate. Sometimes translators were incapable not only of recognizing specific terms, but even the concepts to which they pertained (Gutiérrez Rodilla 1998). This phenomenon is not limited to the past. It remains a challenge today for all of us working with terms that originated in English. When faced with such terms, we may not recognize the concept they are referring to, rendering us unable to realize that these terms already have equivalents in the target language. As a result, English terms are introduced into other languages, which end up competing with vernacular ones. However, this is not the most concerning aspect of the problem. The most significant issue is that a non-expert reader might be led to believe that the concept itself is new, leading to further complications.

This is what happened, for instance, in the nineteenth century with various terms that were mainly translated from French dictionaries. A good example would be the word *croup*, in which Spanish-speaking translator-physicians were unable to recognize *garrotillo*, a well-known disease in the Spanish-speaking world, first accurately described by a Spanish doctor in

the seventeenth century. The same happened with another childhood ailment, *coqueluche* [whooping cough], and its adjectival form *coqueluchoïde*. Both words frequently cropped up in nineteenth-century Spanish dictionaries, though the Spanish physician Antonio Ballano's dictionary had stated as early as 1805 that the disease the French named *coqueluche* was known in Spanish as *tos ferina*, *tos compulsiva* or *catarro maligno*.

In the last decades of the nineteenth century, the same began to happen for German and English terms as well as French. This is illustrative of the change that was taking place in these last years of the century in the struggle for scientific and linguistic hegemony between German and French, as well as English, which was starting to join the race.

The *Spanish Lexicographical Medical Thesaurus* (*TeLeMe*)

As has been shown in previous sections, there are several types of medical dictionaries, and researchers might struggle to determine which ones are most suitable for their work. In this regard, to use the different types of available medical dictionaries effectively, it is crucial for researchers to understand how many dictionaries there are and which ones are most relevant to their research. This is one of the reasons that has led our research group to build *TeLeMe*, a Spanish-language medical lexicographical thesaurus which includes the medical dictionaries published in Spain during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and the first decades of the twentieth century. *TeLeMe* gives scholars access to all the works in a single tool, enabling them to perform comprehensive term searches with ease. We believe this is a great help for researchers studying the history of various medical (or medicine-related) terms in the past, as well as the ideas and concepts that accompanied them.

Shaping this thesaurus first required compiling a list of all medical lexicographic works published in Spain during the period of study. All the works were then classified according to the typological criteria discussed above. Once all the works to be studied had been located and organized, the next step was prioritizing the order of inclusion into the *TeLeMe* tool. The team then started the lengthy process of extracting words from each repertoire to include them in the *TeLeMe* research tool to create the lemmary.[3]

Although the tool aims to include all the types of dictionaries discussed in this chapter, it was nevertheless necessary to start with just one type of lexicographic work. Given our previous experience and knowledge of the subject, we chose to start with terminological (but not encyclopaedic) works on medicine in general, rather than focusing on specific medical fields. We also decided to start adding dictionaries originally written in Spanish rather than translations, although these will follow shortly. So far, 14 volumes have been added, including works by Suárez de Ribera (1730–31), Hurtado de

Mendoza (1840), Vázquez de Quevedo (1853), Cuesta Ckerner (first [1878] and second [1883–92] editions), and Caballero Villar (1886).

At the time of writing, the tool is in the process of being built, but it can already be used to answer questions such as whether there are total or partial coincidences in the lemmary of each dictionary and in the meaning of the terms. It also allows scholars to trace the history of the words it contains, from first appearance to last, as well as possible variations in meaning. We can see when certain terms entered Spanish and when they dropped out of use, or even if a certain word enters and leaves several times. The results may even show that a particular word appears chronologically in the first three dictionaries included, but then disappears in the fourth and reappears in the fifth, with the same or a different meaning. Combining the answers to these and other questions yields highly interesting results (Gutiérrez Rodilla and Pascual 2022). Further studies could involve conducting searches to find total or partial synonymy of terms, among other lexicographical, linguistic, and historical analyses.

Conclusions

This chapter has presented a panoramic view of the translation of medical dictionaries in nineteenth-century Spain. The choice of these works for the present study was not accidental: the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were the golden age of lexicography, and dictionaries were one of the most useful and used tools in the dissemination of specialized knowledge. Being able to observe and analyse these works is essential to understanding the development of medicine in an era when medical advances were happening at a dizzying speed. Moreover, the Spanish translation of these lexicographical works tells us much about Spanish society in general and the Spanish scientific community in particular, as well as the development of scientific vocabulary, as confirmed by the various examples discussed above. For instance, the omission of certain paragraphs – or indeed volumes – dealing with topics that translators found morally or culturally sensitive, reflects the convictions and beliefs of Spanish society. The fact that a majority of physicians were unable to realize that the French *croup* was the same as the Spanish *garrotillo* (or, if they did, they preferred to use the borrowed French term) clearly demonstrates how practitioners of science in Spain developed (and continue to develop today) a particular blindness to their own practices and heritage when foreign ones overshadow them, and when they wish to show their colleagues that they are aware of innovations coming from abroad. The inclusion of terms like *acupuntura* or *erotomanía* in medical dictionaries translated from French to Spanish in the first half of the nineteenth century, long before they were picked up by the Royal Language Academy Dictionary in 1884, points to some (but by no means all) of the

ways in which the Spanish medical vocabulary has been shaped from the nineteenth century onwards.

The *Spanish Lexicographical Medical Thesaurus* (*TeLeMe*) presented here is the first of its kind to exist for a scientific field in Spanish. In fact, to our knowledge, it is the first one for a specific scientific field in our language environment (which includes French, English, Italian, and Portuguese). This thesaurus brings together an extensive number of works that retain their autonomy and identity, yet, can be consulted together with little effort. It provides researchers with a clearer understanding of specialized words and their history, stimulating our knowledge of the scientific lexicon and individual terms. By employing a philological methodology based on comparison, hypotheses can be formulated to understand a word's trajectory, accounting for its lifespan – ephemeral or extensive – and helping to answer the questions raised in the previous section. In short, the *TeLeMe* thesaurus provides a range of possibilities that can be used to complement various research approaches to the history of science, language, and, of course, translation.

Notes

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2 All translations are by the authors unless otherwise stated.
3 The tool can be accessed through http://teleme.usal.es/ (accessed 31 April 2023).

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