

## Outline of an Italian-Spanish Glossary of Nominal Locutions in the Semantic Field of Work

### Aproximación de un glosario italiano-español de locuciones nominales en el ámbito semántico del trabajo

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**Abstract:** *Learning and teaching a foreign language is no easy task, especially when it comes to idiomatic expressions such as locutions. These phraseological units do not constitute a complete utterance, but are classified according to their function in the sentence. The Italian and Spanish languages are rich in locutions whose meaning, in most cases, cannot be deduced from the mere sum of their components, but can be interpreted as a whole. Therefore, this paper aims to offer an Italian-Spanish glossary of sixty-eight nominal locutions on the semantic field of work, intended for both teachers and students of Italian or Spanish as a foreign language. The locutions have been extracted from a phraseological corpus based on the analysis of twenty-five textbooks of Italian as a foreign language. The analysis of the lexical units has been carried out taking into account their phraseological equivalence in both languages and placing emphasis on those cases which present differences in the internal compositional structure and in the phraseological correspondence.*

**Keywords:** Nominal locutions. Phraseology. Italian. Spanish. Glossary.

**Resumen:** *Aprender y enseñar una lengua extranjera no es un proceso fácil, sobre todo, en lo que se refiere a expresiones idiomáticas como las locuciones. Estas unidades fraseológicas no constituyen un enunciado completo, sino que se clasifican de acuerdo con su función en la frase. Las lenguas italiana y española son ricas en locuciones, cuyo significado, en la mayoría de los casos, no puede deducirse de la mera suma de sus componentes, sino que puede interpretarse como un único bloque lingüístico. Por ello, este trabajo pretende ofrecer un glosario italiano-español de sesenta y ocho locuciones nominales sobre el campo semántico del trabajo, destinado tanto a profesores como a estudiantes de italiano o español como lengua extranjera. Las locuciones se han extraído de un corpus fraseológico basado en el análisis de veinticinco libros de texto de italiano como lengua extranjera. El análisis de las unidades léxicas se ha realizado teniendo en cuenta su equivalencia fraseológica en ambas lenguas y haciendo hincapié en aquellos casos que presentan diferencias en la estructura compositiva interna y en la correspondencia fraseológica.*

**Palabras clave:** Locuciones nominales, fraseología, italiano, español, glosario.

## 1. Introduction

When in the process of learning a foreign language, we frequently come across certain linguistic elements that escape pure logic and whose meaning

cannot be deduced from the mere sum of their components. These units function in the language alongside syntagms, lexemes or utterances (Gurillo, 2018). Moreover, from a communicative point of view, Wotjak (1988, p. 543) states that they are lexical units that form the discourse of speakers and that possess expressive and emotional charge capable of holding the attention of the receiver.

Regarding the phraseological approach, locutions are relatively stable combinations and are fixed by the system, unlike collocations which are stable combinations prefabricated in the norm, characterised by the high frequency of use and co-occurrence of their elements, and by the idiomatic meaning, which is not justified by the sum of their components (Corpas Pastor, 1996, p. 20).

To further clarify the concept of locution, let us examine the Spanish collocations *dar un grito*, *lanzar un grito* and *pegar un grito*, where the phraseological meaning is identical in the three syntagms (Velázquez Puerto, 2018, p. 15). However, when it comes to locutions, the substitution or modification of the elements that compose them may lead to a loss of phraseological meaning. Let us take, for example, the Spanish locution *no dar pie con bola*; in this case, if we replace the verb *dar* by the verb *proporcionar*, the result would be an intelligible combination, but void from the phraseological and semantic point of view.

These combinatorial characteristics are what render the learning and teaching of these phraseological units a challenging task. In this regard, due to the difficulty of learning it entails, the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR, 2002) includes its teaching at advanced levels (C1/C2), arguing that at these levels learners reach the linguistic maturity to be able to interpret the opaque meaning of locutions. Despite this, Velázquez Puerto (2016, p. 13) states that in order to acquire and master this type of phraseological units it is necessary to learn them gradually, whose opinion we endorse. For this reason, in this paper, our interest is focused on the practical aspect of this linguistic phenomenon, providing an Italian-Spanish terminological glossary composed of sixty-eight nominal locutions on the topic of work, so that both teachers and students of Spanish and Italian as a foreign language may make use of it for teaching purposes. Owing to the compositional and semantic characteristics of the locutions analysed, it is possible to maintain that this glossary can be used from A2 level upwards, where, according to the indications provided in the CEFR (2002), the user should know how to ask and answer questions about what he/she does at work and in his/her free time (CEFR, 2002, p. 36).

## 2. The Structure and Taxonomy of Locutions

Locutions are those phraseological units that Copas Pastor (1996) introduces in SPHERE II of her classification of phraseological units of the Spanish language. Casares (1992 [1950], p. 170) states that a locution is a stable

combination of two or more terms that functions as an element of the sentence and whose meaning cannot be deduced from the sum of its components. Zuluaga (1980, p. 191) argues that these are units that are functionally inferior to the phrase and that combine within the phrase, with each other or with other linguistic signs. As mentioned before, these units differ from collocations in their institutionalisation, syntactic-semantic stability and denominative function (Corpas Pastor, 1996, p. 89).

A locution is not easy to identify; for this reason, certain parameters have been created to verify its semantic and morphosyntactic cohesion (Corpas Pastor, 1996, p. 90), such as the impossibility of using synonyms; the fact that it is not possible to eliminate or add elements to a sentence; the fact that it is not possible to change the order of the constituents of a locution.

Whilst it has been stated that locutions are typified by a high degree of fixity of the constituent elements, the impossibility of modifying, substituting and interchanging them, it is true that some of them admit variations, such as *andar con ojo* and *andar con cien ojos* (Velázquez Puerto, 2018, p. 16).

Furthermore, it is arduous to distinguish locutions from compound words. Lang (1990) identifies syntagmatic compounds as pluriverbal units characterised by a high frequency of co-occurrence and usage and which do not admit substitutions, deletions or modifications of their elements. The only difference between locutions and syntagmatic compounds lies in the orthographic union of the unit. For example, in Spanish, *nochevieja*, *nochebuena*, *medianoche*, etc. Therefore, Corpas (1996, p. 93) considers syntagmatic compounds those phraseological units formed by the graphic union of two or more bases and locutions; these units are not characterised by graphic union.

## 2.1. Spanish Language Locutions

There are different types of locutions that are categorised according to the grammatical function they perform (Corpas Pastor, 1996, p. 93). In the Spanish language, it is possible to discern between nominal, adjectival, adverbial, verbal, prepositional, subjunctive and clausal locutions.

*Nominal locutions* are composed of nominal syntagmas, but also of a nominal syntagma plus an adjectival or prepositional syntagma, such as noun + adjective (*golpe bajo*), noun + preposition + noun (*lágrimas de cocodrilo*), noun + noun (*la flor y nata*) and verb + verb (*coser y cantar*). Corpas (1996, p. 96) states that these locutions can perform the same grammatical functions as a noun or nominal syntagma.

*Adjectival locutions*, like adjectives, perform the grammatical function of attribute and predicate. They may be of various types (Corpas Pastor 1996, p. 98): adjective/predicate + preposition + noun (*listo de manos*), adjective + conjunction + adjective (*sano y salvo*), adjective + *como* + noun (*blanco como la pared*), *más* + adjective + *que* + noun (*más feo que Picio*), those formed by a prepositional syntagma *de* (*de pelo en pecho*).

*Adverbial locutions* constitute the most abundant group of locutions and are prepositional syntagmas that seem to be related to the grammatical category of adverb (Corpas Pastor, 1996, p. 99), such as *a bordo, a brazo partido, de improviso, con la boca abierta, con pelos y señales, por lo pronto, con el corazón en la mano, de par en par*, etc. (Corpas Pastor, 1996, pp. 99-100). Like adverbs, these locutions have the same grammatical functions, adverbs of manner, of place, of time, of negation, of affirmation, of quantity, of doubt, and are used to explain the action of the verb. There are also adverbial locutions capable of modifying the entire sentence, such as *según yo, según tú*, which play the role of sentence modifiers (Corpas Pastor, 1996, p. 101).

*Verbal locutions*, like verbs, express processes, with or without a complement (Corpas Pastor, 1996, p. 102). They consist of a fixed combination of words that have a unitary meaning and perform the function of a verb within the sentence: verb + *y* + verb (*dar y tomar*), verb + pronoun (*cargársela*), verb + pronoun + particle (*dar de sí*), copulative verb + attribute (*ser el vivo retrato de alguien*), verb + circumstantial complement (*dormir como un tronco*), verb + direct object (*chuparse el dedo*) and fixation in the negative (*no pegar ojo*). Verbal locutions usually do not admit changes within their structure, as they are fixed word combinations. However, it is possible to find cases where adverbs such as *bastante, muy* or *mucho* are used to emphasise the action (Corpas Pastor, 1996, p. 105).

*Prepositional locutions* perform the same functions as prepositions and their core is a prepositional syntagma, such as *a pesar de*. They are composed of an adverb followed by a preposition, such as *encima de* or by preposition + noun + preposition, such as *a causa de*. Other prepositional locutions are the result of a lexicalisation process, in which the syntagma has lost its semantic value to acquire the new grammaticalised meaning, such as *en lugar de* (Corpas Pastor, 1996, p. 106).

*Conjunctive locutions* are distinguished from other locutions because they cannot form independent syntagmas nor be the core of the locution itself. They can be coordinating or subordinating. Conjunctive locutions can also have other values (Corpas Pastor, 1996, pp. 107-108), for example conditional value (*siempre que*), concessive value (*aun cuando*), causative value (*dado que*), consecutive value (*así que*), final value (*a fin de que*), modal value (*según y conforme*), comparative value (*así . . . como*), temporal value (*a medida que*).

*Clausal locutions* are composed of several syntagmas, one of which is a verb. They may express judgements and propositions and consist of a subject and a predicate. They do not constitute complete utterances because they require the presence of an actant in the discourse in which they are used. Among the many possible examples provided, *hacersele a alguien la boca agua, subírsele a alguien la sangre a la cabeza, írsele a alguien el santo al cielo* may be highlighted.

## 2.2. Italian Language Locutions

In Italian phraseology studies, with reference to locutions, Voghera (2004) analyses and calls them polyrhymatic units, typified by combinatorial restriction and acting as single lexemes. Dardano (1978) calls them superior lexical units and Scalise (1994) syntagmatic compounds. In her taxonomy, Voghera (2004) states that a polyrhymatic unit indicates a sequence of words with a unitary meaning, perceived by the speaker as a single lexeme (Voghera, 2004, p. 56).

Another point of view to be taken into account is that of Dardano (1978), who refers to locutions as a single syntagmatic compound, with a unitary and metaphorical meaning. However, it is sometimes possible to deduce their meaning at the compositional level, as in the case of the nominal locution *burst engine*. Like free and semi-free word combinations and collocations, locutions are not speech acts and therefore need a situational context to specify their meaning.

The main difference between free word combinations and collocations and locutions lies in the restriction of their constituent elements and their non-compositional metaphorical meaning. In the verbal locution *farsi in quattro*, the meaning of unity is not to divide oneself into four persons, but to work hard to achieve something.

In his proposal for classifying the phraseological units of the Italian language, Lisciandro (2020) follows the classification developed by Corpas (1996) and uses her taxonomy to refer to Italian locutions, since it is valid and effective when it comes to differentiating the diverse types of locutions of the Italian language. In this regard, it is possible to identify the following types:

- nominal locutions: *luna di miele, busta paga, campo magnetico*;
- adjectival locutions: *acqua e sapone, alla buona, sano e salvo*;
- adverbial locutions: *a suo tempo, a vista d'occhio, alla perfezione, all'improvviso, di punto in bianco*;
- verbal locutions: *fare causa, perdere tempo, piantare in asso, andare via, uscire pazzo*;
- prepositional locutions: *rispetto a, riguardo a, a furia di*;
- conjunctive locutions: *dal momento che, ammesso che, in quanto*;
- interjective locutions: *al diavolo, per carità*;
- pronominal locutions: *chissà chi, chissà cosa, chi più chi meno*.

## 3. Nominal locution specificities

As linguistic units of the system, locutions can be examined from different perspectives. If the analysis concerns their structure, it will be of a formal type. If, on the contrary, the aim is to carry out a morphological analysis, the components and resources that have been involved in their creation will be taken into account (Gurillo, 2018, p. 47).

Likewise, it will be necessary to analyse their syntactic functions within

the text, as well as the semantic relations (synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, polysemy, homonymy) or the resources of metaphor and metonymy.

With reference to Spanish nominal locutions, they are made up of a single nucleus which is normally a noun or an element which plays the same function in the text; this element is modified by an adjacent, formally an adjective (*empanada mental*) or a prepositional syntagm (*luna de miel*), or is coordinated to another nominal syntagm (*tiros y troyanos*); the nucleus may or may not have fixed a determiner. Furthermore, we find nominal locutions with an anomalous compositional structure (*la de Dios*) or which have been created in a different way (*todo quisqui, uno que otro, el que más y el que menos, el que dirán*) (Gurillo, 2018, p. 48).

As Gurillo (2018, p. 52) states, from a morphological point of view, locutions are syntagms that behave like simple words; their components act as morphemes within a set. The presence of the same morpheme in several locutions shows how profitable this element is for the creation of new syntagms.

With reference to syntax, on the contrary, nominal locutions are capable of performing the same functions as the simple noun, such as subject, direct object, indirect object, as well as others thanks to translation. Zuluaga (1980, p. 54) affirms that the unit *el mejor pastor* acts as the indirect object of verbs such as *vender, ofrecer, dar* o *entregar*, while Corpas (1996, p. 96) points out that the syntactic function of the locution *borrón y cuenta nueva* is that of direct object of the verb *hacer*. However, the dictionary of the Spanish Language (online version) does not classify *borrón y cuenta nueva* as a nominal locution, but as a colloquial expression in use by the speaking community<sup>1</sup>.

In regard to their composition, according to Corpas (1996, p. 95), Spanish nominal locutions are formed by:

- noun+adjective: *vacas flacas, golpe bajo, mosquita muerta, sopa boba*;
- noun+preposition+noun: *luna de miel, patas de gallo, alma de cántaro, cortina de humo, lágrimas de cocodrilo*;
- infinitival locutions (Casares (1992 [1950])), whose verbal constituents never take the personal form, such as *coser y cantar*;
- clausal locutions: *el que dirán*;
- deictic expressions lacking lexical meaning, such as *menda lerenda, cada quisque, ni dios*.

Moreover, as stated in the previous paragraph, they can perform the same functions as a nominal syntagm.

With respect to their idiomaticity, this type of locution may lack it, thus having a literal meaning, like the locutions which will be examined in the following chapter.

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<sup>1</sup> Dictionary entry available here: <https://dle.rae.es/borr%C3%B3n>. Date last consulted 29/03/2023.

Nevertheless, when it comes to the Italian language, it is of paramount importance to point out that the compositional structure of these phraseological units varies. As a matter of fact, according to the classification developed by Voghera (2004, p. 62), we encounter nominal locutions, such as type noun + adjective (*zuppa inglese, metro quadro, campo magnetico*), noun + preposition + noun (*ferro da stiro, mal di testa, tiro a segno*), adjective + noun (*alta tensione, terza pagina, vecchia gloria*), noun + noun (*busta paga, effetto serra, porta finestra*)<sup>2</sup>. Actually, the linguist (2004) labels them as *unità pilirematiche nominali* and states that, in the Italian language, they account for 23% of all the *polirematiche* units.

#### 4. The Selection of the Corpus

As mentioned above, the main purpose of this paper is to present an outline of an Italian-Spanish terminological glossary of sixty-eight nominal locutions for didactic and learning purposes, mainly. These locutions have been extracted from an extensive phraseological corpus elaborated by Lisciandro (2018) in his doctoral thesis. The corpus is based on the phraseological analysis of twenty-five textbooks of Italian as a foreign language of which only the textbooks have been analysed, since the exercise books contained the same phraseological units found in the reference textbooks. In addition to the grammatical and lexical examples and explanations, the samples of the proposed exercises as well as the reading and listening comprehension texts were also analysed; all the examples examined show the language regularly used by Italian speakers.

The reason why we have opted for analysing and working on nominal locutions is due to the fact that they present a peculiar characteristic, different from the rest of the locutions, such as the verbal ones. In this concrete case, most of the locutions examined do not present idiomatic features such as the verbal locutions *tomar el pelo* and *meter la pata*, but their composition and consequent meaning is transparent. Nevertheless, because of their frequency of use of co-occurrence of the constituent elements, they are to be understood as unitary lexical units and are therefore regarded as a single linguistic chunk.

In reference to the topic, the semantic field of work, it is present in most of the manuals and teaching guides of different university degrees, such as tourism, and, moreover, as encountered in the CEFR (2002, p. 36), from A2 level upwards. Furthermore, among the communicative tasks and purposes, the user should be able to search for jobs, read job advertisements, describe his or her job, among other communicative functions (CEFR, 2002, p. 57).

#### 5. The Analysis

Locutions are syntagms fixed in the language system, which signify in

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<sup>2</sup> The examples provided are available here: <https://acortar.link/PWiDPp>. Date last consulted 14/04/2023.

chunks and usually function as words or syntagms; they also show a high degree of fixity of the constituent elements and are distinguished by the fact that these elements cannot be modified or substituted.

Another factor worthy of note is their opaque meaning, since their significance is to be found in the metaphor and within a specific situational context. Nevertheless, in the sixty-eight nominal locutions contained in the corpus, it can be claimed that all of them are typified by a non-opaque meaning. As a matter of fact, as Trovato (2018, p. 423) claims, these phraseological units are easily intelligible between Spanish and Italian, because of their structure and literal meaning. In addition, they do not pose particular problems of interpretation for Italian-speaking learners, and vice versa, since the locutions have the same similarity in both languages. This phenomenon, according to Trovato (2018, p. 424), is due to the fact that the linguistic proximity between Spanish and Italian is also evident at a cultural level.

For all the above reasons, there is a phraseological equivalent between Italian and Spanish, thus sharing the same internal structure, as illustrated in the graphic below.

Phraseological equivalence	Phraseological inequality
86%	14%

Fig. 1: Phraseological equivalence and inequality

In the light of the aforementioned, let us proceed to analyse the fourteen percent of those locutions that do not present a phraseological equivalence between the cognate languages, Italian-Spanish.

In the following chart, it is possible to observe the sixty-eight nominal locutions encountered in the twenty-five Italian language textbooks for foreigners, which have been reviewed in Lisciandro (2018). The Spanish translation is the author's own production.

Subsequently, we will examine the lexical units using the number in brackets as a reference point.

	Italian	Spanish	Structure	Differences
1	<i>Addetto ai lavori</i>	<i>Encargadola de...</i>	<i>N + Prep + ...</i>	Yes (1)
2	Agente immobiliare	Agente inmobiliario	N + Adj	None
3	Animatore turistico	Animador turístico	N + Adj	None
4	Area di servizio	Área de servicio	N + Prep + N	None
5	Assistente di volo	Auxiliar de vuelo	N + Prep + N	None



6	Assistenza sanitaria	Asistencia sanitaria	N + Adj	None
7	Azienda agricola	Empresa agrícola	N + Adj	None
8	Biglietto da visita	Tarjeta de visita	N + Prep + N	None
9	Capitale sociale	Capital social	N + Adj	None
10	<i>Capo cantiere</i>	<i>Jefe de obra</i>	<i>N + N //</i> <i>N + Prep + N</i>	Yes (2)
11	Carta d'identità	Documento de identidad	N + Prep + N	None
12	Carta di credito	Tarjeta de crédito	N + Prep + N	None
13	Case popolari	Viviendas sociales	N + Adj	None
14	Centro commerciale	Centro comercial	N + Adj	None
15	Centro storico	Centro histórico	N + Adj	None
16	Centro urbano	Centro de la ciudad	N + Adj // N + Prep + Art + N	None
17	Chirurgia estetica	Cirugía estética	N + Adj	None
18	Chirurgia plastica	Cirugía plástica	N + Adj	None
19	Chirurgo estetico	Cirujano plástico	N + Adj	None
20	Congedo di maternità	Permiso de maternidad	N + Prep + N	None
21	Conto corrente	Cuenta corriente	N + Adj	None
22	<i>Corso di laurea</i>	<i>Grado</i>	<i>N + Prep + N // N</i>	Yes (3)
23	Crisi economica	Crisis económica	N + Adj	None
24	Curriculum vitae	Currículum vitae	N + N	None
25	Diploma di maturità	Título de bachillerato	N + Prep + N	None
26	Donna di casa	Ama de casa	N + Prep + N	None

27	Esame di maturità	Examen de selectividad	N + Prep + N	None
28	Faccende domestiche	Tareas domésticas	N + Adj	None
29	<i>Guardia di finanza</i>	<i>*Policía Fiscal</i>	<i>N + Prep + N</i>	Yes (4)
30	Guardia forestale	Guarda forestal	N + Adj	None
31	Guida turistica	Guía turístico	N + Adj	None
32	Istruzione pubblica	Educación pública	N + Adj	None
33	Lavoratore autonomo	Trabajador autónomo	N + Adj	None
34	Lavoro di gruppo	Trabajo de grupo	N + Prep + N	None
35	Lavoro di squadra	Trabajo en equipo	N + Prep + N	None
36	Lavoro nero	Trabajo sumergido	N + Adj	None
37	Libero professionista	Trabajador autónomo	N + Adj	None
38	Medico di base	Médico de cabecera	N + Prep + N	None
39	Patente di guida	Permiso de conducir	N + Prep + N	None
40	Pattinaggio artistico	Patinaje artístico	N + Adj	None
41	<i>Pausa pranzo</i>	<i>Pausa para el almuerzo</i>	<i>N + N // N + Prep + Art + N</i>	Yes (5)
42	Permesso di soggiorno	Permiso de residencia	N + Prep + N	None
43	Posta elettronica	Correo electrónico	N + Adj	None
44	Professore/essa universitario/a	Profesor/a universitario	N + Adj	None
45	<i>Pronto soccorso</i>	<i>Urgencias</i>	<i>Adj + N // N</i>	Yes (6)
46	<i>Ragazzo/a alla pari</i>	<i>Au pair</i>	<i>N + Prep + Art + N // Art + N</i>	Yes (7)
47	Rete sociale	Red social	N + Adj	None
48	Scuola dell'obbligo	Escuela obligatoria	N + Adj	None

49	Scuola elementare	Escuela primaria	N + Adj	None
50	Scuola materna	Escuela infantil	N + Adj	None
51	Servizio civile	Administración pública	N + Adj	None
52	Servizio militare	Servicio militar	N + Adj	None
53	Sistema informatico	Sistema informático	N + Adj	None
54	Sistema sanitario	Sistema sanitario	N + Adj	None
55	Social network	Red social	N + Adj	None
56	Sportello bancomat	Cajero automático	N + Adj	None
57	Stile di vita	Estilo de vida	N + Prep + N	None
58	Stipendio fisso	Sueldo fijo	N + Adj	None
59	Studio fotografico	Estudio fotográfico	N + Adj	None
60	<i>Studio legale</i>	<i>Bufete de abogados</i>	<i>N + Adj // N + Prep + N</i>	<i>Yes (8)</i>
61	Studio medico	Consulta médica	N + Adj	None
62	Tasso di disoccupazione	Tasa de desempleo	N + Prep + N	None
63	<i>Tesi di laurea</i>	<i>Trabajo fin de Grado</i>	<i>N + Prep + N // N + N + Prep + N</i>	<i>Yes (9)</i>
64	Tessera sanitaria	Tarjeta sanitaria	N + Adj	None
65	Titolo di studio	Título de estudios	N + Prep + N	None
66	<i>Ufficio informazioni</i>	<i>Oficina de información</i>	<i>N + N // N + Prep + N</i>	<i>Yes (10)</i>
67	Vigili del fuoco	Cuerpo de bomberos	N + Prep + N	None
68	Villaggio turistico	Complejo turístico	N + Adj	None

Fig. 2: Italian-Spanish Nominal Locutions Glossary

We shall now proceed to examine the ten nominal locutions that differ from each other.

Case number 1

- *It. Addetto ai lavori*
- *Sp. Encargado de...*

As it is possible to observe, in the translation process from Italian into Spanish, although a certain phraseological equivalence can be appreciated in the internal structure of the units, noun + preposition + noun, it is appropriate to clarify that, especially in the case of the Spanish language, we are faced with a partially restricted collocation of words, since it is possible to combine the base *encargado de* with different nouns, for example, *encargado de una tienda*, *encargado de un trabajo*, *encargado de una tarea*, etc. Likewise, from a semantic point of view, a person in charge of something is a person who is in charge of a house, an establishment, a business, etc., on behalf of the owner, whereas in Italian it is simply a person who has received a commission. In the Italian language, however, it is a more restricted combination from a collocational point of view.

Case number 2

- *It. Capo cantiere*
- *Sp. Jefe de obra*

Regarding the second case, there are differences between the two languages.

With reference to the Italian nominal locution, we can appreciate that it is made up of two nouns, while in Spanish it is composed of a noun + preposition + noun. However, from the translational point of view, these locutions have a total phraseological equivalence, the only difference being in the use of the preposition *de* in the Spanish phraseological unit.

Case number 3

- *It. Corso di laurea*
- *Sp. Grado*

In this case, there is no equivalence either in the internal structure of the units or in the translation into Spanish. In fact, the Italian nominal locution is formed by a noun + preposition + noun, while in Spanish it corresponds to a single lexeme. Therefore, the phraseological equivalence is null.

Case number 4

- *It. Guardia di finanza*
- *Sp. \*Policía Fiscal*

Case number 4 is a clear example of legal translation. In the Italian legal system, the *Guardia di Finanza* is in charge of safeguarding a country's finances, dealing with smuggling, drug trafficking, money laundering, among others. Nevertheless, in Spain, there is no unit within the national police force that deals exclusively with these crimes. Therefore, the translation *Policía Fiscal* should not be considered as valid from a legal point of view, but rather as a proper translation that explains the concept of origin.

Case number 5

- *It. Pausa pranzo*
- *Sp. Pausa para el almuerzo*

Case number 5 is an example of an Italian noun + noun. However, in Spanish, we are dealing with a partially restricted combination of words, since there are different possible options, such as *pausa para el almuerzo*, *pausa para almorzar*, *pausa para comer*, etc. It is essential to be aware of the diatopic feature of the word *almuerzo*, since in some areas of Spain it indicates breakfast and could therefore lead to semantic ambiguity.

Case number 6

- *It. Pronto soccorso*
- *Sp. Urgencias*

In the following example, there is no equivalence either in the internal structure of the units or in the translation into Spanish. In fact, the Italian nominal locution is formed by an adjective + noun, while in Spanish it corresponds to a single lexeme. Therefore, the phraseological equivalence is null.

Case number 7

- *It. Ragazzo/a alla pari*
- *Sp. Au pair*

Case number 7 is rather peculiar. The Italian locution is composed of a noun + articulated preposition + noun, while the corresponding phraseological unit in Spanish is a crude foreignism from French. Despite this, there is a partial equivalence between Italian and French, since *alla pari* is the literal translation of the French phraseological unit, *au pair*.

Case number 8

- *It. Studio legale*
- *Sp. Bufete de abogados*

As far as example number 8 is concerned, it is possible to affirm that, referring to its internal composition, it is a noun + adjective in Italian, and a noun + preposition + noun in Spanish. However, in the Spanish language, it is possible to simply use *bufete*, omitting *de abogados*. In terms of phraseology, if we were to use only the word *bufete*, there would be no phraseological equivalence whatsoever, since it would be a single noun.

Case number 9

- *It. Tesi di laurea*
- *Sp. Trabajo fin de grado*

The analysis of this particular case underlines the cultural factor of the phraseological unit, as Trovato (2018) claims. The Italian locution *tesi di laurea* corresponds to the final thesis and master's degree, since in Italy, in most degrees, the 3 + 2 university system is implemented, respectively called *laurea triennale* and *laurea magistrale*. However, in the Spanish locution, it is assumed from the outset that we are referring to the final degree project. Therefore, in Italian, it would always be advisable to add the adjectives *triennale* or *magistrale*

to the locution so that it is clearly indicated what type of degree is meant.

Case number 10

- *It. Ufficio informazioni*
- *Sp. Oficina de información*

In the last case, there is a difference from the structural point of view of the locution, being the Italian unit noun + noun and the Spanish unit noun + preposition + noun. In both cases, there are two nouns among the constituent elements of the nominal locution. Therefore, a phraseological equivalence can be discerned between the two languages.

## 5. Conclusion

The aim of this paper is to develop the creation of a glossary of nominal locutions in the cognate languages Italian and Spanish. For this purpose, sixty-eight nominal locutions on the semantic field of the work have been selected from a phraseological analysis of twenty-five textbooks of Italian as a foreign language (Lisciandro, 2018). In addition to his, the analysis carried out of the ten cases has revealed a compositional and traductological dissimilarity, in fact they do not present any phraseological equivalence in both compositional and semantic structure. After having conducted the analysis, the results demonstrate that there is a total phraseological equivalence between the languages, corresponding to eighty-six percent. This high degree of phraseological equivalence is probably on account of the compositional structure of the nominal locutions examined and their lack of idiomaticity in most cases. Actually, they do not convey an opaque meaning, but designate a lexical unit whose significance corresponds to a unitary concept, and this peculiar feature enables its acquisition to be more feasible.

From a didactic point of view, it is indisputable that the acquisition of locutions is a pending subject for learners of Italian and Spanish as a foreign language and, most of the time, they are usually left for more advanced levels, since learners show linguistic maturity to be able to understand and decipher them. Therefore, this glossary, on account of the literalness and full equivalence of the nominal locutions under analysis, might be a useful linguistic resource for the learning and teaching of nominal locutions, from level A2 and above, both in Italian and in Spanish as foreign languages, especially for those students who are in the process of familiarise themselves with Translation.

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