

The making of a bilingual dictionary of phraseological units English-Spanish/Spanish-English with corpora examples

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Abstract: The aim of this lexicographical project is to compile by semasiological order collocations, idioms and phraseological units in both languages with their equivalents. If there is not an equivalent phraseological unit, we look for a functional equivalent. Firstly, we will include the most significant 10 000 phraseological units from the Bank of English and the British National Corpus, explaining, when necessary, with usage notes relevant cultural information. Secondly, we will look for the most relevant Spanish phraseological units and we will provide their translation into English, including 25 000 examples of real usage from the Corpus de Referencia del Español Actual.

Elaboración de un diccionario bilingüe de unidades fraseológicas inglés-español / español-inglés con ejemplos extraídos de corpus

Resumen: El objetivo de este proyecto lexicográfico es compilar por orden semasiológico colocaciones, expresiones idiomáticas y unidades fraseológicas en inglés, con sus equivalentes en español. Si no existe una unidad fraseológica equivalente, buscamos un equivalente funcional. En primer lugar, incluiremos las 10 000 unidades fraseológicas más importantes del Bank of English y el British National Corpus, explicándolas cuando sea necesario mediante notas de uso con la información cultural pertinente. En segundo lugar buscaremos las unidades fraseológicas españolas más relacionadas y aportaremos su traducción al inglés, junto con 25 000 ejemplos de uso real tomados del Corpus de Referencia del Español Actual.

Key words: collocation, idiom, corpus, English, Spanish. **Palabras clave:** colocación, expresión idiomática, corpus, inglés, español. **Panace@ 2006; 7 (23): 99-105.**

1. Introduction

We claim that the issue of functional and pragmatic equivalence in standard bilingual English-Spanish / Spanish-English dictionaries (Collins, Larousse, Longman, Oxford, Richmond) has not been addressed properly. We also claim that bilingual dictionaries of idioms (Carbonell 1995; Rodrigues and Bernet Rodrigues 1990) present the following problems:

- They sometimes leave out the most common lexical collocations, which are important for mastering a real communicative competence in a second language.
- Examples are made up and do not show authentic usage.
- Aspects regarding pragmatics, register, social, and geographical variation, etc., are usually neglected.

2. Current trends in phraseology

Research on foreign language acquisition and use shows that different combinations of words and formulae are a must (Corpas Pastor 1996:11).

A *phraseological unit* is a stable linguistic construction, of two or more words, associated to a communicative context and characterized by several factors such as repetition, fixedness, idiomaticity and anomaly. Phraseological units can be classified into collocations, set phrases and idioms. Collocations are

free phrases restricted somehow by usage. They have transparent meanings and include technical terms (terminological word groups such as *blocked artery*), onymic entities (i.e. phrases which are proper names), etc. Set phrases are phraseological units of the language system that constitute neither complete utterances nor speech acts and that function, in general terms, as clausal elements (*spick and span*). Idioms are fixed in speech and belong to the socio-cultural heritage of a speaking community. They can be subdivided into two big groups, proverbs and formulae. The former have textual autonomy and referential meaning (*God helps those who help themselves*); the latter lack textual autonomy and occur under certain circumstances and in certain communicative situations (*just like that*). Although, as Wotjak (1983:75) states, there are several cases of morpho-syntactic and semantic-communicative identity among languages such as Spanish and German, this diverse variety of structures is not always clearly presented in bilingual dictionaries which:

1. do not adopt clear selection criteria, avoiding difficult idioms on certain occasions (*a poisoned gift*);
2. do not include informal and colloquial phraseology: *in my heart of hearts, not to have a pot to piss in, to kick up a fuss, hard on its heels, pasarlas canutas, mandar a freír espárragos, andar con pies de plomo*, etc. (see appendix 1 with the entry *all*);
3. contain old-fashioned idioms: *un dedo no hace ma-*

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no ni una golondrina verano (Savaiano and Winget 2001:85);

4. do not include usage examples which clarify the meaning, especially in terminological collocations (i.e. collocations related to chiropody such as *athlete's foot* or *ojo de gallo*);
5. show a lack of correspondence between the English and Spanish terms.

Phraseology has always posed problems for translation as it reflects different linguistic and cultural values. It is a well-known fact that although finding a correct translation for a phraseological unit is not always an easy task, (cf. Roberts 1998:76), we must not forget that most phraseological units have a functional equivalence (phraseological or not) in other languages. We differentiate four stages in the translation process of a phrase-ological unit at a microtextual level: (a) identifying the phrase-ological unit, (b) interpreting it in its context, (c) looking for a functional equivalent at a lexical level and (d) establishing correspondences at a textual level. These four stages do not imply a linear or temporal succession as everything will depend on the translator's level of phraseological competence, on the degree of equivalence (total, partial or zero) of the phraseological pair and the complexity of lexical, semantic, pragmatic, textual and discursual relations in the context of the Source Language (SL).

Equivalence relations among phraseological units in both languages reflect a continuum from total identity to lack of equivalence. There are several examples between the two poles of partial equivalence reflecting lexical, figurative and connotative inconsistencies. Total equivalence occurs when a SL phraseological unit corresponds with another one in the target language denotatively and connotatively, sharing the same metaphorical base, and having the same distribution and frequency of use. This type of equivalence is not usual and can be found in Europeanisms (*Todos los caminos llevan a Roma > All roads lead to Rome*), denominative phraseological units (*hearing impairment > deterioro de la capacidad auditiva*) and terminological phraseology¹. However, most phraseological units have partial equivalents with a different metaphorical base (*silence is golden > en boca cerrada no entran moscas*). The most challenging problem for the translator is, of course, those phraseological units with no equivalents in the target language (*can't get your head round smt = can't understand smt*). In these cases the translator has to evaluate the semantic, pragmatic, and discourse values of the unit in the SL to transfer that meaning into the TL through **modulation**: *splitting headache > dolor de cabeza insoporable* whereby a concrete action, "to split", becomes an abstract adjective in Spanish, "insoporable". Another translation procedure is **calques**, an almost literal rendering of English semantic or syntactic structures into Spanish, which is the second procedure most frequently used by translators, take for example *hearing window period > periodo ventana*, referring to the state or period of an infectious agent, such as a virus or bacterium, living or developing in a host without producing clinical symptoms.

Lastly, Baker (1992:77) proposes **omission** as a translation

procedure to eliminate those phraseological units which are not necessary to understand the text, although she reminds us that this omission entails the loss of some semantic aspects. A way to balance this loss is introducing other phraseological units in the text further on, a procedure known as **compensation**.

The reasons stated above prove that more complete phraseological dictionaries are required to give a more realistic picture of language usage. In many occasions, translators and advanced students have to improvise to translate the phraseological units², as none of the translations offered in bilingual dictionaries give adequate answers. More precisely, we aim to produce a dictionary that meets the following criteria:

1. A dictionary with parallel correspondences that reproduce the idea, not the form.
2. Examples of real usage will be included of every idiom, collocation, and proverb coming from the British National Corpus (BNC) and Corpus de Referencia del Español Actual (CREA). When no relevant examples are found, we will include examples taken from the Internet.
3. We will offer more than one translation whenever possible:
 - a. *to rake sb over the coals > hacérselas pasar canutas / moradas / negras / a algn.*
 - b. *conjunctivitis del lúpulo > hop eye, hopper's eye, hop picker's ophthalmia, hop-eye*. This expression makes reference to the irritation of the eyes of hop pickers from the spine like hairs of the hop plant.
4. A balance is important between the two parts (English into Spanish / Spanish into English).
5. A CD will be developed which will allow a user-friendly access.

3. Objectives of this research project

We have looked for the most frequent collocations and idioms in the BNC and the Bank of English (Sinclair 1996; Hanks 2000), as these corpora reflect the frequency, fixedness and the real functions of phraseological units. Our aim is to demonstrate the impact which the appreciation of collocations and idioms can have on translation.

As the traditional definition of idioms is too restricted and difficult to put into practice, Cowie (1993:xii-xiii) identifies four types of phraseological units which will be adopted in our bilingual dictionary:

1. **Pure idioms**: 'the end point of a process by which word combinations first establish themselves through constant re-use, then undergo figurative extension and finally petrify or congeal.' Examples: *push up daisies > criar malvas*.
2. **Figurative idioms**: 'this category is idiomatic in the sense that variation is seldom found and pronoun substitution unlikely'. Examples: *burn one's boats, beat one's breast*.
3. **Restricted collocations** (semi-idiomatic): 'one word

has a figurative sense not found outside that limited context; the other element appears in a familiar, literal sense. Examples: *jog one's memory* > *ejercitar la memoria*.

- 4. **Open collocations:** The elements can be freely combined. Examples: *gas eye* > *queratoconjuntivitis por el sulfuro de hidrógeno*, which is an irritation of the eye caused by exposure to hydrogen sulfide fumes.

Once the final corpus of phraseological units is compiled in English, we have to translate them into Spanish bearing in mind the selection of the translation equivalents, their currency and the examples of use. We include two entry examples, *authority* and *hand*. At a structural level, idioms are marked in navy blue at the end of the entries; the symbol ^ before the phraseological unit indicates that appears more than 100 times in the BNC. Two ^ (^) indicate that the frequency of usage is over 1000 times.

authority n.

- 1. [Control] [power] **to assert, demonstrate, show; assume, establish; delegate; exercise, exert, use, wield, have; invoke authority.** *Afirmar, demostrar; asumir, establecer; delegar; ejercer, usar, tener; invocar la autoridad.* It will also inform, educate, surprise, inspire trust, and show authority.
- 2. **To give up, relinquish, yield authority.** *Dejar, ceder, entregar la autoridad.*
- 3. **To challenge, defy; deny, reject; rebel against; undermine; usurp authority.** *Desafiar, desacatar, desobedecer; negar; rechazar; rebelarse contra; minar; usurpar la autoridad.* Sheila, a year younger still, was too self-centred and bright ever to challenge authority on poor grounds.
- 4. **Absolute, complete, full, supreme, unquestioned authority.** *Autoridad absoluta, completa, plena, suprema, incuestionable, innegable.* Under the Special Powers the government has the full authority to act and has failed to do so.
- 5. **Parental authority.** *Autoridad de los padres, paterna.* Accompanying the greater caring was an intensification of parental authority.
- 6. **Control authority.** *Autoridad de control.* The New South Wales Casino Control Authority refused to disclose the names.
- 7. **An air of authority about her.** *Un aire de autoridad.* He wore horn-rim glasses and had an air of authority.
- 8. **^Under sb's authority.** *Bajo la autoridad de.* Federal government under antitrust authority.
- 9. **To abuse, overstep one's authority.** *Abusar de la autoridad.* I don't want to lose my job, but it's very unfair that my boss should be able to abuse his authority and make my life so miserable.
- 10. **Educational (BrE); legal; ministerial; presidential; reviewing (mil.); royal; state authority.** *Dis-*

trito escolar y autoridades del mismo; autoridad legal; ministerial; presidencial; que pasa revista; real; estatal. The Jews already recognised the Romans as the state authority.

- 11. **Have power and authority.** *Tener el poder y la autoridad.* They had power and authority!
- 12. [Expert] [source] **to cite, invoke an authority.** *Citar, invocar una autoridad.*
- 13. **An appropriate, competent, proper; reliable; indisputable, irrefutable; ^local, unimpeachable, unquestioned; leading, ^police authority; respected authority; the greatest living authority.** *Autoridad apropiada, competente; fidedigna; indisputable, irrefutable, indiscutible, principal; local, incuestionable; principal, policial; autori-dad de prestigio; la autoridad, el experto más importante vivo sobre.* The tone of the interviewer was respectful, as if Bala Usman were an unquestioned authority on all matters concerning international relations.
- 14. **^Health authorities; museum; a port, school authorities.** *Autoridades sanitarias; la dirección del museo; autoridades portuarias, escolares / la dirección del puerto, del colegio.* Brisbane North Regional Health Authority director Dr Campbell.
- 15. **To have smt on good authority.** *Saber algo de buena fuente.* I have it on good authority that Fat Sam's pleasure is coarsing.

hand n.

- 1. **To cup; fold one's hand.** *a) Ahuecar las manos; b) hacer bocina con las manos; cruzar las manos.*
- 2. **To clap one's hands.** *Dar una palmada.*
- 3. **To lower // raise one's hand.** *Bajar // levantar, alzar la mano.*
- 4. **Bare; delicate; dishpan (esp. AmE) // gentle hands** *manos desnudas; delicadas; de fregona // suaves.*
- 5. **A pair of hands.** *Un par de manos.*
- 6. **To do smt by hand.** *Hacer algo a mano.* **Made / painted by hand.** *Hecho / pintado a mano.*
- 7. **To lead sb by the hand.** *Llevar a algn. de la mano.*
- 8. **To take sb by the hand.** *Coger / tomar a algn. de la mano.*
- 9. [Help] **give me a hand with.** *Ayúdame con.*
- 10. [Worker] **a factory, mill (BrE); hired; ranch hand.** *Un obrero; un temporero.*
- 11. **An old hand (at smt).** *Ser perro viejo en.*
- 12. [Pointer on a clock] **an hour; minute; second, sweep-second hand.** *Manecilla de la hora; minuto-ro; segundero.*
- 13. [Control] **to get out of hand.** *Descontrolarse, quedar fuera de control.*
- 14. **To take sb in control.** *Controlar a algn.*
- 15. [Pledge of betrothal] (formal) **to ask for sb's hand.** *Pedir la mano de.*
- 16. [Cards held by a player] (also fig.) **to show, tip one's hand.** *Mostrar la mano, las cartas.*

17. **To have, hold a hand.** *Tener una mano.*
18. **A good, strong // losing, weak; winning hand.** *Cartas buenas // malas; ganadoras.*
19. [Possession] [ownership] **to fall into sb's hands.** *Cambiar de dueño.*
20. **To change hands.** *Cambiar de dueño.*
21. **Enemy; private; safe hands.** *A manos del enemigo; privadas; seguras.*
22. [Viewpoint] **on one hand (AmE), on the one hand... on the other hand.** *Por una parte... por otra.*
23. [Closeness] **near at hand.** *A mano.*
24. [Applause] **to give sb a hand.** *Aplaudir.*
25. **To get, receive a hand.** *Recibir aplausos.*
26. **A big hand.** *(Gran) ovación.*
27. **Do you have a free hand?** *¿Puedes ayudarnos en...?*
28. **To have a free hand in this matter.** *Teníamos libertad plena para.*
29. **To be caught with your hand in the cookie jar (AmE).** *Ser atrapado con las manos en la masa.*
30. **To be caught with your hands / fingers in the till (BrE).** *Ser atrapado robando dinero en el trabajo, actividad realizada durante cierto tiempo.*
31. **To be a dab // poor hand at / with smt.** *Ser bueno al hacer o usar algo, tener buena mano para // tener mala mano para.*
32. **To be in sb's hands.** *Estar en manos de algn.*
33. **To bind / tie sb hand and foot.** *Atar a algn. de pies y manos.*
34. **To bite the hand that feeds you.** *Morder la mano que te alimenta, ser un desagradecido, cría cuervos...*
35. **Sb can do smt with one hand tied behind his / her back.** *Hacer algo con los ojos cerrados, con gran facilidad.* See also "To do smt with one hand tied behind your back".
36. **To come (readily) to hand (BrE).** *Algo que es fácil o cercano de encontrar o alcanzar.*
37. **The dead hand on.** *Rémora, lastre.*
38. **To do smt with one hand tied behind your back** (see also "Sb can do smt with one hand tied behind his / her back"). *Intentar hacer algo pese a las dificultades que hacen difícil tener éxito en la empresa.*
39. **A firm; iron hand.** *Tener una mano de hierro con, tener un control firme sobre algo / algn.*
40. **At first hand, first-hand (AmE).** *De primera mano, directo, conocer de buena tinta.*
41. **At second hand.** *Conocer algo de forma indirecta, por terceras personas.*
42. **To fall / get into the wrong hand.** *Caer en manos equivocadas.*
43. **To force sb's hand.** *a) No dejar otra salida, obligar a actuar, b) apretar las tuercas a algn.* It is possible that Richard's letter to York did mark the beginning of a planned chain of events but that something then forced his hand and he found himself having to deal with Hastings before his plans had matured.
44. **To get one's hands on sb.** *Va a ver cuando le agarrar, le pille (col.).*
45. **To get one's hand on smt.** *Andar detrás de algo.*
46. **To get out of hand.** *Ser difícil o imposible de controlar.* But that kind of carefully calibrated escalation could easily get out of hand.
47. **To get / gain / have the upper hand.** *Imponerse, dominar en una relación.* With the arrival of Mrs Thatcher in Downing Street, the new Toryism, something which was quite distinct from traditional Conservative policy, gained the upper hand.
48. **To give sb a big hand (oral).** *Vamos a dar un aplauso a.* So give him a big hand, please.
49. **To give sb a free hand / sb has a free hand.** *Dar a algn. carta blanca / tener carta blanca.* The failure of the pope to pronounce on this matter until 798 meant a dangerous delay for Coenwulf and was probably a factor in his desire for an archbishopric at London, but the papal judgement when it came gave him a free hand and made London as an archiepiscopal see dispensable.
50. **To give, lend sb a hand; not lift a hand to.** *Ayudar a algn.; no mover un dedo para.* She would never have to lift a hand to do an ounce of work, not as much as wash a cup.
51. **To go hand in hand with.** *Ir de la mano de, estar íntimamente relacionado con.* See "To work hand in hand with".
52. **To be hand in glove with.** *Ponerse de acuerdo, conspirar con.* The Mayor and his friends were themselves the criminals, hand in glove with the smugglers whose leader Jake was clearly an old ally.
53. **The hand of God (BrE).** *a) Tener muy buena suerte o triunfar con algo de trampa, especialmente en el fútbol; b) (lit.) la mano de Dios.* And Maradona, whose 'Hand of God' goal helped knock England out of the 1986 World Cup, could only stand and applaud the young pretender.
54. **To have sb eating out (the palm of) your hand.** *Tener a algn. comiendo de la palma de tu / su... mano.* She had those eager guests eating out of the palm of her hand in seconds.
55. **To have a hand in (doing) smt; a guiding; helping hand (to lend a helping hand).** *Ayudar, echar una mano.*
56. **To have a hand in (doing) smt.** *Estar involucrado en hacer algo.*
57. **To have / keep smt ready to hand (BrE) / have keep smt on hand (AmE).** *Estar seguro de que algo está cerca o que se puede usar.*
58. **To have the whip hand (over sb) (BrE).** *Controlar a algn. por tener más poder que esa persona.*
59. **The heavy hand of.** *La mano dura.* Nobody ever felt the heavy hand of management versus employees.
60. **To hold sb's hand.** *Ayudar a algn. ante una situación desconocida o que da miedo.*
61. **To keep your hand in.** *No perder la práctica de,*

practicar una destreza para no perderla.

62. **To lay a hand on sb.** *Poner la mano encima a algn., pegar.*
63. **To live from hand to mouth, hand-to-mouth.** *Vivir al día.* Mr Hurd recalled the last Lib-Lab pact in the late 1970s as ‘a period of shabbiness and indecision’ and a time without social or economic achievement in which the Labour government lived from hand to mouth.
64. **Not do a hand’s turn.** *No mover ni un dedo, no pegar ni golpe.*
65. **Sb needs a hand.** See “To give / lend sb a hand”. *Ayudar a algn.*
66. **To be on hand.** *Estar a mano.*
67. **On the other hand.** *Por otra parte.*
68. **To reject / dismiss smt out of hand.** *Rechazar de plano.* But Rowland’s offer has been dismissed out of hand by Brent Walker and unless the bond holders, who owed £102m in all, agree to the restructuring plan involving BW’s 47 bankers it would appear that the directors will have no other alternative but to put the company into receivership.
69. **The right hand doesn’t know what the left hand is doing (also the left hand doesn’t know what the right hand is doing).** *a) Se emplea cuando no hay suficiente comunicación en una organización y no se trabaja conjuntamente; b) que no sepa la mano derecha lo que hace la izquierda.*
70. **To show / tip your hand.** *a) Dejar ver mis / sus... intenciones, mostrar sus cartas (fig.); b) en un juego de cartas, mostrar las que uno tiene a los demás.* At last Macmillan showed his hand: it was essential to get the aircraft companies to contribute to the cost of Concorde’s research and development.
71. **A steady / firm hand on the tiller** (BrE). *Llevar con mano firme, sin sobresaltos, especialmente en tiempos difíciles.*
72. **To take sb / smt in hand.** *Hacerse cargo u ocuparse de algn.*
73. **To try one’s hand at smt.** *Intentar hacer algo.*

This dictionary is aimed to enhance the communicative competence of students of English and Spanish as a second language as well as those who use English for academic and professional purposes. In order to help students find out when they can use certain idioms we add contextual clues to some of the entries: “If a person is ‘un bicho raro’, that means that he / she is an odd ball or a queer fish (coll.)”.

In some cases we also explain their **origin**: *Zamora no se ganó en una hora / No se ganó Zamora en una hora.* (It refers to Zamora’s siege by King Sancho II to seize this Spanish city from his sister, doña Urraca.) This idiom, that relates the past with a current situation, is used to tell someone to be patient because what they want to happen will take a long time. The equivalent English idiom is *Rome wasn’t built in a day.*

Register is also to be included. The Spanish idiom *estirar la pata* means ‘to die’, but it is humorous and informal. Con-

tent words may also vary in idioms: *shake / shiver in one’s shoes / boots* (translated literally into Spanish as *temblar en tus zapatos / botas*). In this example, there is a prototype in English of a person who is afraid related to ‘shoes’ and ‘shaking’, which is independent of the lexemes we use. This type of variation is to be found in several idioms, which poses problems for lexicographers. The problem gets worse as different users of the language have different canonical forms in their heads and they believe that theirs is the only correct version. A further difficulty lies in variations that have a high frequency of use such as *pasarlas moradas / canutas / putas (to have a hard / tough time)*.

In this example, there is a prototype in English of a person who is afraid related to ‘shoes’ and ‘shaking’, that it is independent.

4. Methodology

Units that appear at least twice in the BNC will be included (Sinclair, 2000). This is a standard procedure for significant linguistic results. Applying the principles that this author determined in 1987: *open-choice principle* and *the idiom principle*, we will gather the English and Spanish phraseological units. More specifically, we aim to include a significant number of nominal and verbal collocations ‘weak heart > *corazón débil*’, ‘wait and see’ (base + collocative) with their corresponding translations, not at random, as is frequently the case in general bilingual dictionaries (*Collins Cobuild English-Spanish / Spanish-English; The Oxford Spanish-English Dictionary, Diccionario Moderno Larousse Español-Inglés / Inglés-Español*).

This dictionary will be semasiological, as alphabetical ordering is the most frequent and user-friendly method. Entries will include *sense indicators* (see for example the first entry in the word ‘authority’) and the translation followed by a corpus example³.

5. Conclusion

Why write this dictionary? We have already stated some reasons that lead us to think that it is necessary to offer more translations of collocations and idioms, which would enhance the pragmatic and communicative competence of students and translators alike. Furthermore, these phraseological units function in general as anaphoric elements referring back to situations and comments said beforehand, giving not only cohesion and coherence to the text, but also having structuring and thematic functions.

Last but not least, phraseological units show the axiological component of social interaction, and are frequently used to express negative evaluations (Wotjak 1989:479). This can be explained in terms of the politeness principle, whereby the effective cooperation of interlocutors is assumed and avoids uttering negative opinions which might be considered rude or inadequate if expressed directly.

Appendix: phraseological units of all

1. **^All along.** *Desde el primer momento.* Yet Clark had known all along of the military preparations.

2. **To be all about smt** (AmE) (vulg.). *Estar metido de lleno, entregado, concentrado*. As long as he had her, he could work and make money and perform, which is what he is all about.
3. **To be all dressed up and / with nowhere to go** (also **to be all dressed up with no place to go** [AmE]). *Compuesto y sin novia* (preparado para hacer algo que desea hacer pero no puede hacerlo). [It's] a case of 'all dressed up and nowhere to go'.
4. **To be all for**. *Estar totalmente a favor de*. He was all for the idea, and we exchanged addresses.
5. **To be all over smt** (AmE) (vulg., oral). *Estar contento, excitado o seguro de hacer algo*. I was all over that language test today.
6. **To be all over sb**. *Besar y tocar a otra persona con intenciones sexuales*. Says a pal: 'They were all over each other like a pair of love-struck teenagers'.
7. **All's well that ends well**. *Bien está lo que bien acaba*. Well, maybe all's well that ends well.
8. **To do smt for all you are worth**. *Hacer algo con todas tus fuerzas*. So please go ahead and push Grapevine for all you are worth.
9. **To feel all the better for**. *Sentirse mucho mejor por*. You'll probably feel all the better for it.
10. **In all honesty**. *Para ser sincero*. I'm not concerned about that, in all honesty.
11. **All the more so**. *Tanto más cuanto que...* I think there is some truth in that, all the more so, I'm afraid, at a time when Britain is borrowing more than £50 billion a year, and there's a resistance to any reallocation of resources.
12. **Sb is not all there** (oral). *Algn. no piensa con claridad or está loco; irsele a uno la olla, estar algo chiflado (col.)*. He knew he was slow-witted; so many things that were simple for other people quite defeated him, he had even heard himself referred to as 'not all there'.
13. **It's all gone pear-shaped** (oral) (BrE). *Ir / salir todo al revés (de como se había planeado)*.
14. **Sorry and all that**. *Lo siento y todo lo demás*. Something like £800m. is currently owed to the contractors and Eurotunnel is very sorry and all that but it doesn't seem to have the cash.
15. **Written all over one / one's face**. *Notarse a la legua / llevarlo escrito en la cara*. Clutching a Union Jack, three-year-old Louis hurtled into the arms of his dad, judo silver medallist Ray Stevens, with joy written all over his face.
16. **All over the place**. *Por doquier*. Commandos were digging in all over the place.
17. **To be all the go** (ant.). *Estar de moda*. If something or somebody seems to be all the go, it takes a determined editor to ignore it even if he thinks it wildly over-rated.
18. **To go all out**. *Hacer lo imposible por*. Three, you went all out to persuade me to call Sandy to break the news about Ed's murder.
19. **It ain't all that** (vulg.). *No es para tanto*. We ain't all that.
20. **To be the be-all and end-all**. *Ser el único motivo o la razón de ser, serlo todo*. The be-all and end-all!
21. **Once and for all**. *De una vez por todas*. The horrors must be stopped everywhere once and for all.
22. **That's sb all over**. *Es muy típico de él / ella*.
23. **That's all she wrote** (AmE) (oral). *No hay más que hablar*. That's all she wrote. Forget about her let her go.
24. **To top it all (off)** (also **on top of it all**). *Y encima, para colmo, como si esto fuera poco*. On top of it all, the remorseless heat was becoming too much for Hugh, his sunburn itched and he felt sick.
25. **When all is said and done**. *Al fin y al cabo*. He was, when all is said and done, Dudley's man.

Notes

¹ Look at the following collocations related to *heart* and their translations into Spanish:

- a. [Organ that circulates the blood] **to transplant a heart**. *Hacer un trasplante de corazón*.
- b. **A bad, weak; good, healthy, strong heart**. *Corazón débil; en buen estado, sano, fuerte*.
- c. **An artificial heart**. *Corazón artificial*.
- d. **A heart beats; fails, stops; palpitates, throbs, pounds, thumps; pumps blood**. *Un corazón late; deja de latir, se para; palpita, late con fuerza; bombea sangre*.
- e. **To have a heart attack**. *Tener, padecer un ataque cardíaco, un infarto de miocardio*.
- f. **A fatal, massive; severe; sudden heart attack**. *Un ataque cardíaco o un infarto de miocardio masivo; serio; repentino*.

² The collocations *nagging backache / ranking backache* are not translated into Spanish in none of the bilingual dictionaries we looked up. They do not admit a literal translation either as the collocations *persistent / chronic backache*.

³ See the entry for *gas*. Sense indicators are indicated with brackets.

gas n.

- a. **Gas station**. *Estación de servicio, gasolinera*. Atop the gas station at Everett, Washington State.
- b. [Accelerator] **to step on the gas**. *Pisar el acelerador*. In Day Four of our series we're offering 100 prizes of £50 to fill up your car and step on the gas.
- c. [Combustible gaseous mixture] **to connect; light, turn on the gas**. *Conectar, poner el gas*. At the enquiry which followed one manager said 'I always light the oxygen first, and when that is burning I turn on the gas'.
- d. **To cut off, disconnect; turn off the gas**. *Quitar, desenchufar el gas*. Turn off the gas -good beer needs no blanket.
- e. **Coal; natural gas**. *Grisú; gas natural*. He was also first in his use of coal gas for train lighting in 1862.
- f. [Substance dispersed through the air to disable the enemy] **mustard; nerve; poison, toxic; tear gas**. *Gas mostaza; nervioso; venenoso, tóxico; lacrimógeno*. Bombs and poison gas would rain down on undefended cities.

- g. **Laughing gas.** *Gas de la risa, gas hilarante, óxido nítrico.* Nitrous oxide, commonly known as laughing gas and once used as a dental anaesthetic, is a natural product of biological processes in soils and water.
- h. **Run out of gas.** *Perder fuelle.* Nobody takes me seriously and it'd be a disaster if I ran out of gas where I am now.

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