
This book is the twelfth in the collection of monographs Vertere, dealing with translation and translation studies. It is a revised, augmented edition of Fernández’s dissertation submitted to the Department of Linguistics and Translation at the University of Montreal in April 2007.

The revival of learning during the Renaissance stimulated the compilation of grammars and dictionaries which, because of the invention of printing, could be circulated more easily and freely among travellers and merchants, in this way reaching larger groups of users. Spanish and English bilingual lexicography was an important tool in the teaching of Spanish in Tudor England.

The question Fernández sets out to answer is what can be deduced from the structure of early alphabetical and topical Spanish and English dictionaries, and their outside matter texts, about the compilation principles lexicographers followed and the purpose of their works. The investigation led first to a structural typology of these publications showing how the overall organization of topical dictionaries changed only slightly, while the position of grammars and alphabetical dictionaries was reversed. Both grammars and lexicographical products were used for pedagogical purposes. However, all the authors do not follow the same pedagogical approach, which influences the organization of the component parts of a specific author’s work. Topics discussed by Spanish and English lexicographers comprise three categories: metalexicographical topics dealing with lexicography and the organization, function, intended users and features of the dictionary; metalinguistic topics treating phonetics, morphology, loan words and etymology; and extralinguistic topics informing about the genesis and printing of the dictionary, and the socio-political circumstances under which it was compiled.

The historical frame of the study extends from the two anonymous compilations of 1554 to the 1740 dictionary of Pedro Pineda. The corpus contains all the major and minor general bilingual Spanish and English dictionaries, alphabetically and topically arranged, published during this period. The body of the work therefore consists of a discussion of these dictionaries, grammars and vocabularies and their reprints and reissues: six from the sixteenth century, two from the seventeenth century and four from the eighteenth century. Of these twelve dictionaries twenty-two editions have been studied by Fernández.

Fernández follows an inductive method. By starting with an analysis of each work and then comparing it with preceding works, he arrives at a structural typology of the dictionaries and a classification of the subjects discussed in them. The organization of the sections dealing with each work are as follows: the discussion begins with introductory remarks of the compiler’s life and work, followed by the genesis and compilation of the particular dictionary. After the
sources have been explored, the megastructure of the work is presented and the outside matter texts are listed. Then the macro- and microstructures are studied, comparing these with those of previous works. To make this comparison possible, samples from the beginning, middle and final parts of the dictionaries have been chosen. These samples also allow the verification of the prevailing ideas about a certain work. Short dictionaries and vocabularies could be studied in their entirety, but from larger ones samples had to be taken. When little or no research had been done on a certain work, aspects such as alphabetization, capitalization, use of articles, pronunciation and microstructural data are described. Studying the front and/or back matter texts last made a comparison of the subject matter in these texts in a particular dictionary with those in other dictionaries possible. In this way the interrelationships between the dictionaries as well as the evolution of the principles of the organization and compilation could be clarified. The analysis of the front matter texts reveal how the work was conceived and organized and compiled according to particular principles and points of view. Each discussion is rounded off by concluding remarks.

The book consists of seven chapters. In the first chapter the development of lexicography and the emergence of lexicography are reviewed, followed by an explanation of the fundamental concepts megastructure, macrostructure and outside matter, which make a uniform description of the constituent parts of the discussed works possible. A literature review is presented in chapter two, the first part dealing with the works of Roger J. Steiner and the second with other literature such as bibliographies, electronic resources and scholarly publications. Chapter three contains the problem statement, including the rationale for and objectives of the study and the corpus studied. Chapter four is historical, first explaining the role and influence of Antonio de Nebrija’s works on modern lexicography in general and on Spanish and English lexicography in particular, and then giving an overview of the socio-political factors that led to the compilation of the first Spanish and English dictionaries during the second half of the sixteenth century. Chapters five, six and seven form the body of the book which deals with the corpus. Fernández classified the dictionaries first according to the century when they were published and then in order of the appearance of their first editions. Chapter five studies works from the sixteenth century: the two anonymous dictionaries from 1554, the Book of English and Spanish and the Very Profitable Book to Learn English and Spanish, together with those by John Thorius The Spanish Grammar. With a Dictionarie adjoyned unto it (1590), Richard Percyvall Bibliotheca Hispanica. Containing a Grammar, with a Dictionarie in Spanish, English and Latine (1591), William Stepney The Spanish Schoole-master. Containing Seven Dialogues and a Vocabularie (1591, 1619, 1620) and John Minsheu A Dictionarie in Spanish and English (1599, 1623). Chapter six discusses works from the seventeenth century: the short dictionary by Lewis Owen The Key of the Spanish Tongue (1605, 1606) and the polyglot dictionaries by Minsheu Guide into the Tongues (1617, 1625, 1626, 1627) and its companion A
Most Copious Spanish Dictionarie (1617). Chapter seven examines works from the eighteenth century: John Stevens’ A New Spanish and English Dictionary (1706-05, 1726), the topical dictionaries by Félix Antonio de Alvarado Spanish and English Dialogues. With the Construction of the Universe, and the Principal Terms of the Arts and Sciences (1718, 1719) and Stevens New Spanish Grammar. To Which Is Added, a Vocabulary of the Most Necessary Words (1725, 1739), and Pedro Pineda’s New Dictionary, Spanish and English and English and Spanish (1740).

The general conclusion summarizes the historical circumstances which led to the beginning of Spanish and English lexicography. Spanish and English integrated books based on their core structure and peripheral texts are typologized. The evolution of each structure type is traced according to the basic distinction between alphabetical and topical dictionaries. This is followed by a classification of the subjects lexicographers discussed in the prefatory texts. The chart at the end of this section gives a comprehensive and updated overview of Spanish and English bilingual lexicography. The book is concluded by a bibliography containing primary sources comprising dictionaries, grammars and vocabularies discussed in the book, and secondary sources consisting of electronic resources, monographs and papers dealing with these primary sources.

This study brings an important corrective on and extension of Roger J. Steiner’s 1970 published book Two Centuries of Spanish and English Bilingual Lexicography (1590–1800), which concentrates on lexicographical works in the alphabetical tradition. Works studied by Fernández for the first time are the two anonymous dictionaries from 1554, which were not known to Steiner, the short dictionary by Lewis Owen (1605), the second and third editions of William Stepney’s vocabulary (1619, 1620), the two editions of Felix de Alvarado’s nomenclator (1718, 1719) and the two editions of John Stevens’ vocabulary (1725, 1739). An exception to Fernández’s rule of not including multilingual works is Minsheu’s 1617 polyglot dictionary and its companion, which bring a better and fuller understanding of Minsheu’s lexicographical practice and influenced subsequent bilingual dictionaries. Also new is a discussion of the potential relationships between the 1617 two-part volume by Minsheu, subsequent editions of the polyglot dictionary only (1625, 1626 and 1627), and the Stevens dictionary of 1706–05. Furthermore a fuller analysis than Steiner’s of the 1590 Thorius dictionary, the 1591 edition of Stepney’s vocabulary and Minsheu’s Most Copious Dictionary of 1617 is given. This study is therefore an informative addition to the literature dealing with the historical description and evaluation of Spanish and English bilingual lexicography.

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