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## Importance of the authors' contribution in the accurate translation of their manuscripts

### *Importancia de la contribución de los autores a la acertada traducción de sus manuscritos*

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Received: May 10, 2019

Accepted: June 20, 2019

**Keywords:** Translations, Manuscripts, Journal Article, Organizational efficiency

**Palabras clave:** Traducciones, Manuscritos, Artículo de Revista, Eficiencia Organizacional

#### To the Editor:

English is the language of science<sup>1,2</sup>; therefore, in order to increase the visibility of publications, many non-English speaking medical (or other specialty) journals simultaneously publish their contents, in full text, also in that language.

This is the rule. However, the option of facilitating reading in the mother tongue of the large Spanish-speaking community in the world has led to such important editions as the Journal of the American College of Cardiology to publish its contents also in Spanish (<http://www.onlinejacc.org/jacc-international/spanish>).

Who could have the faintest doubt that the work of translators is of paramount importance?<sup>3</sup> However, who would be best suited to translate medical texts: the specialized translator or the specialist who has studied translation? Actually, this is a rhetorical question, because both can do it reasonably well; we could not favor one opinion over another.

Yet, as in almost all things, in unity lies strength. Interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinary boost the quality of any process where they are applied, because no one is so "rich" as to monopolize the whole of the existing body of knowledge<sup>4</sup>.

Several examples could be cited, but we will limit

ourselves to only two that directly concern, as author and as editor, to the first author of this article.

*Revista Española de Cardiología* and *Medicina Intensiva*, this last one also Iberian, are two prestigious journals, indexed in important international databases and repositories, with high impact factors and other recognized bibliometric indexes, which publish their contents in both languages (Spanish and English); however, they do not escape from making slight mistakes that may disturb the interpretation of the results of any research for those who read them in their mother tongue.

In one of our articles accepted into the *Revista Española de Cardiología*<sup>5</sup> the term "*tronco coronario izquierdo*" was translated as left coronary artery when in English it is perfectly known as left main coronary artery. And in *Medicina Intensiva* we wrote "...*mientras mayor sea el QRS, mayor será el QT...*", which was translated as "...the longer the QRS, the greater the QT..."<sup>6</sup>, when it would be more accurate to say: "...the wider the QRS, the longer the QT...". By chance this phrase, in Spanish, was used verbatim in one of the articles published in *CorSalud*<sup>7</sup>, -reason why we were encouraged to send this Letter to the Editor, -and at the moment of translation we were faced with the dilemma of how to translate it, although we decided to leave it as it was

published by the original source<sup>6</sup>, as it was an exact reference between quotation marks. But the commentary cannot be ignored: most authors are not good translators, but what is a fact is that we are very familiar with the terms of each specialty.

Therefore, journals should also send authors the English version of their manuscripts, as is done with the Spanish proofreading, before publishing the article.

The quality of the translation increases substantially when working together. Authors, peer reviewers and editors can collaborate with the translators, who enrich their knowledge every day. Luckily, at CorSalud, the process is guaranteed: this union is our strength.

### CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

The authors are Editorial Board Members at CorSalud.

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