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## **The lexicographical treatment of idioms in business dictionaries from the point of view of the translator as user**

### **Abstract**

Economic language presents a hybrid nature. Unlike other LSPs, this discourse shows a high degree of emotive meaning, abstract processes like metaphor, which bring about the great number of idioms used in business English, and the complexity involved in their translation into Spanish. The analysis of the lexicographical treatment of five business idioms in nineteen dictionaries of economics (monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual) reveals that specialized lexicographical resources should improve their treatment of idioms and other phraseological units if they are to respond to the needs of users like translators. It is suggested that specialized works should include idioms as lemmas, offer more types of syntactic-semantic information and structure it more systematically, for example, by basing their entries on the conceptual structure of economy.

Key words: specialized lexicography, economics, phraseology, idioms, translation.

### **1. Introduction**

This article is part of a broader study (Fraile Vicente 2005) where I explored the treatment of business idioms<sup>1</sup> in general and specialized lexicographical resources and systems of terminology management (dictionaries, glossaries, terminological databases). On that occasion, I considered both general and specialized resources because the economic discourse analyzed shows a hybrid nature that mixes peculiarities of general language and specialized languages, as it comprises general,

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<sup>1</sup> I also refer to idioms as idiomatic, figurative or metaphorical expressions or constructions.

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technical and *semi technical*<sup>2</sup> vocabulary: lexical units from everyday language or fields related to economics, which derive metaphorically to a new specific sense that is understood in context (Henderson, 2000: 172), thus familiarizing the non-expert with the specialized notions (Tercedor Sánchez, 1999: §5.6).

My present aim is to emphasize the importance of including idioms as lemmas and of describing their linguistic peculiarities in depth and their relationship with other types of related phraseological units (PUs) in general and specialized dictionaries. Certainly, though these constructions are not very frequent in the natural language, they are cognitively salient, as they constitute the intermediate level where terms associate to form word combinations that bring about the conceptual structure of a specialized domain. Besides, speakers may have trouble identifying their canonical form and translating them, as they may be quite different from one language to another.

The analysis I carry out of idioms in business dictionaries is also based on the fact that the number of LSP dictionaries far exceeds that of other types of lexicographical resources; the tendency of contemporary lexicography is specialized (Montero Martínez, 2002: 205), which means that it is essential to improve the content and accessibility of these works so that they answer the needs of their possible users.

## 2. Criteria applied to analysis

To value the quality and utility of a dictionary, it must be taken into account whether the treatment of information responds to the purpose of the book and the target user type (Bajo Pérez, 2000: 16). Therefore, the making of a dictionary has to follow three principles that assure the quality of the lexicographical product from the point of view of the user, and determine the layout of its macrostructure and microstructure, *accessibility, actuality and reliability*:

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<sup>2</sup> Herbert (1965), Trimble & Trimble (1978), Godman & Payne (1981), Hoffman (1985), Yang (1986), Cabré Castellvi (1993 & 1994) & Alcaraz Varó (2000b) have proposed this intermediate category that explains the continuous exchange of lexical units between the general language and the specialized languages, as well as among these. The *semitechnical* or *subtechnical* terms are used in more than one field as a kind of terminological fund common to several sciences.

- The user should be able to find quickly the terminology adapted to his needs and to the communicative situation (*accessibility*).
- He should count on an updated terminology on the specialized domain implied (*actuality*).
- The terminology should be correct, precise and adequate and should have been normalized in the specific field in such a way that it enables efficient communication in both directions: from the source to the target language and *vice versa* (*reliability*) (Gómez González-Jover & Vargas Sierra 2004: §3).

In this study, I recognize that the way a translator acquires expert knowledge and the celerity his work implies make this professional one of the main users of lexicographical applications. In fact, as the translator works with specialized languages, he has to assume competences similar to those of the expert and combine quite different skills: the technical knowledge of a particular field (*cognitive competence*); a deep linguistic proficiency in both the source and target languages, which includes lexical, phraseological, and terminological units (*linguistic competence*); and a *documentary competence* in information retrieval and the available computerised tools (Cabré Castellví et al., 2000: 169). Nevertheless, the specialized resources conceived for the translator should contain different information from that required by those directed to an expert:

*Mientras un especialista acude al diccionario terminológico porque necesita comunicarse con otros colegas en una lengua distinta de la suya, con el objeto de encontrar el equivalente de traducción de un término, el traductor necesita que el diccionario no sólo le ofrezca equivalentes, sino que le proporcione otra información que le facilite la comprensión y la producción de textos* (Gómez González-Jover & Vargas Sierra 2004: §3)<sup>3</sup>.

Certainly, to be a useful resource for the translator of business idioms, the specialized dictionary should meet two complementary needs, text comprehension and production, as the translator must be able to understand the source text and to codify it in the target language in such a way that it looks natural to the target language reader (Fraile Vicente, In

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<sup>3</sup> While an expert uses the terminological dictionary because he needs to communicate with other colleagues in a language different from his own, to find the translation equivalent of a term, the translator needs that the dictionary not only offers equivalents, but also provides other information to ease text comprehension and production.

press a). This implies that the LSP dictionary should include both encyclopaedic and linguistic knowledge; it should offer more syntactic, semantic and pragmatic information concerning idioms, and this should be structured more systematically:

- A definition which provides the conceptual knowledge and the field specific notions.
- A lexicon which comprises three levels of specialization (technical, semi technical, and general vocabulary); as well as the phraseological units (such as the idioms studied); contexts, examples, usage notes, and other linguistic indications: grammatical category, subject-field label, synonyms, antonyms, cross-references, variants that are a help in the decision-making process that translation implies (Gómez González-Jover & Vargas Sierra, 2004: §3).

To assess whether the specialized dictionaries analyzed respond to the needs of the translator-user, I studied the treatment in these works of five business idioms selected from among those included in *English Idioms* (Seidl 1990). I specifically chose expressions that exemplify the most frequent types of conceptual metaphors in English and Spanish: both languages use animate metaphors to describe economy (*growth, depression*) and economic organisations (*parent/ sister company*) as under the control of experts, whereas inanimate metaphors are used to describe market movements (*rebounds, slides*) as beyond human control (Charteris-Black, 2000: 149 & 163). In that way, I analyzed two expressions with organic images: an animal (*bear market*) and a person (*sleeping partner*), that I completed with three metaphorical constructions that show inorganic images (*blue chip, gilt-edged stocks/ securities and talk shop*). Nevertheless, due to the limits of length of a research article, I only present the entries of the two idioms most frequent in dictionaries (*bear market* and *blue chip*).

I investigated the treatment of these idioms in some of the main business dictionaries in English and Spanish following the criteria of formal evaluation (qualitative and quantitative) established by Haensch (1997: 239-243) for these kinds of works with regard to the guidelines for idiom selection and inclusion, the place of the dictionary where these constructions should appear, the way they should be lemmatized, and the classes of lexical information that should be offered with them:

- As regards the dictionary *macrostructure* (the external organization of the lexicographical articles in their mutual relationship), I considered whether the instructions given in the introduction about the treatment of idioms are clear and sufficient for the user; whether the symbols and abbreviations used are adequate, complete and are applied systematically; if typography is useful to clearly differentiate the lemma, the phonetic, orthographic and grammatical labels, the definition and the translation equivalents.
- In the analysis of the *microstructure* (the internal organization of articles), I checked if the different types of phraseological units are identified with the corresponding syntagmatic label; the lemmatization criteria used with idioms (whether these units appear as an independent entry or as run-ons inside the article of one of its lexical components); if the idiom is offered with orthographic variants, grammatical indications, examples of use, pragmatic information (synonyms, antonyms, cross-references and other semantically-related terms); if the translation equivalents proposed are correct (whether it is indicated, for example, that a figurative expression has a near-equivalent in the target language or it can only be transferred with a paraphrase).

First of all, I offer some general traits on the character of each dictionary based on the peculiarities set forth in their introductions and back-covers in order to verify to what extent the reality of the book responds to the qualities announced.

### 3. Results and Discussion

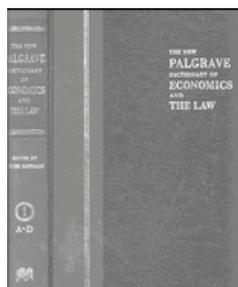
#### 3.1. Monolingual Business Dictionaries

First, I analyzed the dictionaries in the English language and then those in Spanish, both pedagogical and more technical works, with the purpose of examining the different treatment they give to idioms. In general, these books are aimed at a wide variety of users that range from university students, to translators and business professionals, and pretend to cover the essential notions of the main branches of economics.<sup>4</sup> They show a very similar organization and content of entries: the lemma may appear in a simple or complex form; the definition may include cross-references to other entries; they consider polysemy, so that they highlight the different meanings a lemma may display in each field. The function of business dictionaries is to clarify meaning, not use;

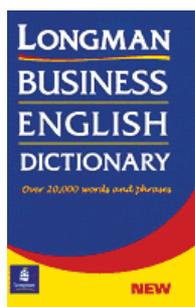
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<sup>4</sup> Business, banking, commerce, accounting, public finance, law, commodity exchanges, computers, insurance, management, quality control, stock market, taxation...

that is why their main difference with respect to general dictionaries is that they do not usually contain phonetic, pragmatic, grammatical labelling or contextual examples. They do not include phraseological information either; in other words, users are not advised of the possible collocational restrictions of terms (Montero Martínez, 2002: 205-206):



1. *The new Palgrave. A Dictionary of Economics (NPDE)* (1991) is the typical classical dictionary that is updated regularly.<sup>5</sup> It is the successor of the *Dictionary of Political Economy* written by Palgrave in 1894. It appears to incorporate many topics that were emerging when the first work was published and that have later assumed an important dimension in the field of economics. It constitutes an encyclopaedic dictionary, compiled by 100 important economists who have overseen many of the 2,000 entries in its four volumes. The articles are followed by bibliographical references that allow the user to expand the notions consulted. At the beginning of each volume, there is a list of the entries and cross-references, and the final analytic index includes the total number of articles and information on essential economic concepts that are not contemplated in the dictionary (authors, history, pages with related notions). This classical work neglects phraseological information as, in fact, it does not include any of the idioms studied: *bear market*, *blue chip*, *gilt-edged value*, *talk shop* and *sleeping partner*.



2. The *Longman Dictionary of Business English (LDBE)* (1989) aims to be completely updated and to cover the language of business and commerce; it is intended for teachers and students who have English as a first or second language. The book provides about 13,000 entries, clear comprehensive definitions and examples, written with an essential vocabulary of 2,000 words based on the *General Service List of English Words* by Michael West. It offers additional data on weights and measures, conversion factors, world currencies and a complete system of cross-references (introduced

<sup>5</sup> Like those by *Lozano* or *Tamames* in Spanish.

by the labels *see under, see, cf., see also*). In general, the work includes a high degree of syntactic-semantic information: numbered entries to distinguish the different meanings of polysemous words; grammatical category; subject-field labels in small capitals (ACCTS. - accounts, BKG.-banking, COM. – commerce...); examples in a context where the variants of the expressions are indicated with slashes (this function can also be pointed out with *or, also*); related words (*Also*); synonyms and antonyms (*Syn./Opp.*); abbreviations or short forms of the expressions (*Abbr.*); register label (*coll.*). The authors recommend looking up a construction under one of its lexical words, not necessarily the first one, which is not user-friendly enough: *in account with* is described in the verb *account*, whereas *payable in arrear* is not explained in the entry of the verb but in that of the noun *arrear*. The phraseological units can appear independently or as subentries. The main entries are organized in alphabetical order and the subentries are also treated as main entries and include a reference to the lemma under which they are defined. Occasionally, what can be considered almost a phraseological label is displayed, the general indication *fig. (figurative)*, although I did not discover it in any of the expressions studied. It is one of the few dictionaries that contain all the idioms investigated (including *talk shop*). That is why, except for the lack of phraseological labels to delimit the classes of PUs, it shows one of the best lexicographical treatments of the constructions analyzed:

<p><b>bear</b> v. (1)(5)<sup>6</sup>  <b>bear campaign</b>  <b>bear market</b> <i>see under</i> market  <b>bear position, bear raid, bear run, bear squeeze, bear tack, bear transaction</b></p> <p><b>market</b> (1)(5)  <b>active market</b>  <b>bear market</b> STK. EXCH. A market in which prices are tending to fall. One in which there are many <i>bears</i>. <i>Syn.</i> A down market. <i>Cf.</i> bull market.</p>
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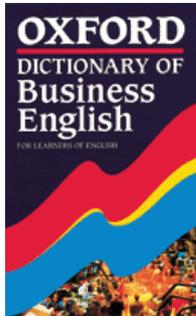
<sup>6</sup> I have kept the original typography. In those entries that are longer, I have just picked up the definition of the concrete idioms studied, followed by a list of the constructions related to them.

**blue** v. (*colloq.*)

**blue book**

**blue chip** STK. EXCH. a commercial or industrial share of the highest class among investments. A blue chip company must be well-known., have a large paid-up capital, a good record in paying a high rate of dividend in good times and bad, a highly-skilled and progressive management, and must provide a safe investment. *Cf.* gilt-edged securities. *Syn.* alpha stocks.

**blue-collar workers, blueprint, blue-sky laws**



3. The *Oxford Dictionary of Business English (ODBE)* (1994) has the profile of a didactic work that promises essential vocabulary, clear but detailed definitions, and over 5,000 examples based on the *Oxford Corpus* (collection of texts in written and spoken English extracted from diverse sources). Contents are displayed in two columns, the right one comprises lemmas, definition and examples; the left one the lexical-grammatical labelling: abbreviations (geographical indications, subject-field and register labels), pronunciation, collocations, grammatical notes and a complex system of cross-references to related words, synonyms and antonyms. This lay out responds effectively to the needs of two user types: those worried about decodification will be interested in the definition, and those with a codifying purpose will focus on the lexical-grammatical information on the right part. It contains only the entries for *bear market*, *gilts* and *sleeping partner*:

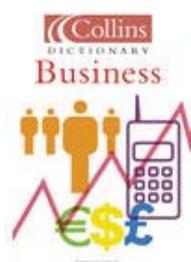
**bear market** noun (*stock exchange*)  
(*slang*) a situation in a stock market or currency market where prices are falling because lots of shareholders are selling: *Sterling has now moved into a major bear market.*

/ˈbeɪˌmɑːkɪt/

**note** usually singular

► ◀ **bear market** dealing, prices

► **bull market, market**

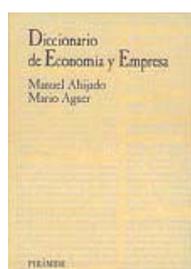


4. The *Collins Dictionary of Business (CDB)* (1995) is also directed at a mixed audience and boasts of reflecting “the *nuts & bolts* of business practice,” the concepts, methods, and techniques used in business, marketing, and finance. Compared with the previous books, this one is more elemental because it favours an encyclopaedic character to the detriment of the linguistic information. The work does not pretend to be comprehensive and refers to other dictionaries by Collins for the more elusive expressions.<sup>7</sup> It is based on austere definitions that lead to related terms in small capitals, cross-references introduced by *See* and antonymous words marked by *Compare*. Nevertheless, the reference system is not perfect (in *speculation*, *bear market* is not mentioned; *joint-stock company* does not refer to *blue-chip company* either) and, once more, there is no proper treatment of the phraseological units:

**bear**

**bear market** a situation in which the prices of FIANCIAL SECURITIES (stocks, shares) or COMMODITIES (tin, wheat) tend to fall as a result of persistent selling and only limited buying. See SPECULATION. Compare BULL MARKET.

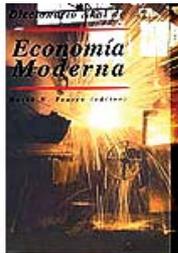
**“blue-chip” company** a large well-established JOINT-STOCK COMPANY, with considerable assets whose SHARES investors regard as low-risk investment.  
blue-collar worker



5. The *Diccionario de Teoría Económica (DTE)* (1985), by Ahijado and Agier with 2,500 articles, is a dictionary in Spanish that is aimed at the students of economics and deals with the whole field and its new branches. Even so, it falls short of the writers’ expectations: it includes mainly definitions with references to related words, but terms in English are explained only occasionally and translation equivalents are rarely offered. The book does not show other semantic or syntactic information useful to the user. In my search of idioms, I just found the adjective applied to the first expression:

<sup>7</sup> *Collins Dictionary of Economics* and *Collins Dictionary of Computing*.

**Bajista.** En la Bolsa de Valores y mercado de divisas, especulador que vende acciones y/o títulos y/o divisas que posee o no, esperando una caída de los precios y, con ello, que los podrá recomprar con beneficio. Es la antítesis del *alcista* (→). El que vende las que no tiene, se dice que ha “vendido corto”; si vende las que posee, que “se ha cubierto”.



6. *Diccionario Akal de Economía Moderna (DAEM)* (1999) is an authorized updated dictionary that has been compiled under the direction of D. W. Pearce and the collaboration of numerous specialists of international renown. It constitutes an encyclopaedic work of almost 2,800 entries. It encompasses the fundamental notions of economic theory, the biography and works of great economists, including the winners

of the Nobel Prize, comparative statistics about the most important economic variables in the countries selected, and the most frequent acronyms used in business. An English equivalent is added next to each lemma but, apart from this detail, the book is not very interesting for the study of phraseology. In fact, I only found the Spanish equivalent of the first idiom I am studying, as if it formed part of a list, without a definition, examples or other indications:

BAJISTAS (bears)



7. The *Diccionario Terminológico de Economía, Administración y Finanzas (DTEAF)* (2000), by Suárez Suárez, is an encyclopaedic work that pretends to define the fundamental terms of economics for the general reader. Its objectives are clarity, precision, and conciseness. Although the main body is in Spanish, the book includes a final list of English equivalents where I looked up my idioms. It only provides definitions

and, in spite of the varied lists that are included (one at the beginning with all the lemmas considered, and a final one with their English equivalents), it is not a great help to the user and shows lack of coordination between the two linguistic sections, as can be observed with the idioms investigated:

- Regarding the first one, I think I found an error as it reads as *bearer market* when I did not find this version in any of the other reference works.

In addition, the Spanish section does not include *mercado bajista*, *bajista* or *a la baja*.

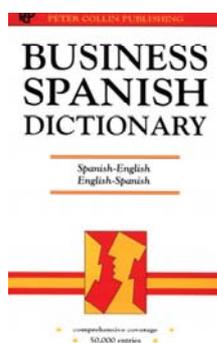
- As for *blue chip*, it does not appear in the final index, and its translation equivalents *acciones* or *valores de primera*, *valores seguros*, *valores punteros* cannot be found inside the dictionary. I discovered the English idiom mentioned by chance in the definition of *valores estrella*.
- I did not obtain the equivalents of the other metaphorical expressions (*gilt-edged securities*, *sleeping partner* o *talk shop*):

<p><b>Bearer market</b> mercado en el que los precios están bajando o se espera que bajen.</p>
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<p><b>Valores estrella</b> Valores, generalmente acciones, emitidos por compañías importantes, de elevado volumen de contratación en general y, por tanto, muy líquidos, que son los primeros en reaccionar, tanto al alza como a la baja, y que arrastran con ellos a todo el mercado. Son los denominados <i>blue chip</i> en inglés.</p>
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### 3.2. Bilingual Business Dictionaries

The lemmas in the bilingual specialized dictionaries are usually simple, but they turn out to be more interesting for the analysis of phraseology because, unlike the monolingual dictionaries, they include a greater number of the most frequent collocates and of polylexematic constructions. Each lemma is followed by its translation equivalent or equivalents, among which the user has to choose on the basis of his previous experience, as these works do not present a definition. Like the bilingual general dictionaries, the specialized ones do not generally comprise phonetic or grammatical labelling or examples of use. However, the bilingual specialized dictionaries elaborated by Alcaraz Varó and his team include information of several classes: orthographic, morphologic, functional, pragmatic, relational and explicative on collocations and compound expressions (Alcaraz Varó & Huges 1998, 2002; Alcaraz Varó et al. 1999 y 2000). Again, I present first the books edited in the Anglo-Saxon countries and then those published in Spain, both ordered chronologically:



1. The *Business Spanish Dictionary (BSD)* (1998) offers the essential economic commercial vocabulary to a wide range of users (translators, businessmen, secretaries, students). Unlike the previous dictionaries, it constitutes the typical bilingual work that does not include definitions but only translation equivalents. This fact, from my point of view, represents one of its main drawbacks. In contrast, it presents numerous examples with their correct translation in a definite context. It sometimes offers short quotations from actual newspapers and maga-

zines in English and Spanish that illustrate the use of the construction in both languages (see the entry for *blue chip*). This book includes the phonetics of English terms; it clearly distinguishes the uses of a term when it can be both a verb and a noun; it contains grammatical indications (category, gender, number); subject-field labels and references to semantically-related constructions. However, the work does not employ labels to differentiate some phraseological units from others. In relation to the use of abbreviations, I do not think it is adequate to separate the components of PUs inserting grammatical indications of gender and number, or the words *o/or* (as in the entry for *gilts*: “títulos *mpl* del Estado *or* de la deuda pública *or* bonos *mpl* del Tesoro”). Besides, I did not observe a high level of coordination between the two linguistic sections: in the Spanish part, *mercado a la baja* is not translated as “bear market”<sup>8</sup> and I found far less collocations with *bear*; as regards the translation of *blue-chips*, I did not see “inversiones de toda confianza” or “acciones de toda confianza”, but a similar construction “inversiones en valores de la máxima confianza”. In any case, the dictionary does contain more idioms than other works studied (*bear market*, *blue chip* and else *gilt-edged value* and *sleeping partner*), which constitutes a step forward compared to them:

**bear** [beɔ̃] **1** noun **(a)** **(b)** (*Stock Exchange*) bajista *mf*; **bear market** = mercado bajista; **bear sale** = venta a la baja; see BULL. **2** verb.

**mercado** nm **(a)** (*lonja*) market,

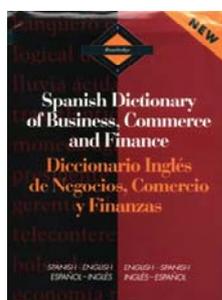
**(b)** (*comercio*) market, **mercado cautivo**, **mercado cerrado** o **controlado**, **mercado deprimido** o **a la baja** = depressed market.

<sup>8</sup> Note: I use inverted commas to differentiate translations from lemmas.

**blue** [blu:] *adjective* **blue chip-investments** or **blue-chip shares** or **blue chips** = inversiones or acciones or títulos de toda confianza.

QUOTE soaring blue chips and off-shore buying helped Australian shares to a new high yesterday. The market opened higher and hopes of an interest rate cut buoyed sentiment. **West Australian**

**inversion** *nf* (a) (*capital invertido*) **inversión inmobiliaria, inversiones a interés fijo, inversión a largo plazo or a corto plazo, inversión segura, inversiones en valores de la máxima confianza** = blue-chip investments.



2. The *Spanish Dictionary of Business, Commerce & Finance (SDBCF)* (1998) has been compiled by Muñiz Castro, interpreter, translator, and terminologist. From a lexicographical point of view, it seems more solid than other similar dictionaries, such as those by Ahijado or Mochón, whose authors are economists. The back cover offers answers to the users' needs in the main commercial, economic, financial, industrial and legal domains. The book comprises the fundamental vo-

cabulary of each field, more than 100,000 terms and references. It represents an essential tool for translators, created by more than 40 specialists, revised by translators, expert businessmen, academics, and lexicographers. This work collects supplementary encyclopaedic material (business correspondence, market shares, financial indexes...). In spite of the fact that it does not include definitions, it does provide subject-field labels, contexts, geographical codes, explanations, or cultural equivalences of terms that guarantee a correct translation equivalent. The introduction states that the dictionary is based on a sophisticated data base with a relational structure, which stores the vocabulary of each language and the relationship among terms in different files so that they may function as translations. An abbreviation placed after each term indicates its grammatical category; those expressions where the initial word is identical but belong to different grammatical categories are distinguished with a supra-index placed after each of its meanings; explanations are introduced by a diamond but, in practice, the use of this symbol is confusing as it is not clear whether it is used to introduce examples (it is scarce with this function) or to separate the part of the entry devoted to the phraseological units. Most PUs (idioms included)

are shown after the lemma which is substituted by the symbol ~; they are displayed in alphabetical order according to the first word. A phraseological label is not included to identify and distinguish the phraseological units. Nevertheless, collocational information is frequently offered in italics to facilitate the usage of a term (the subject or object or a verb, the nouns that are frequently used with an adjective, the adjectives that usually accompany a noun). When a term allows several translations in different fields, the suitable version is shown after the subject-field label; if there is no direct equivalence, a definition or paraphrase is indicated with different typography; in those cases in which a word has several possible translations, the one the experts consulted consider more plausible is offered. It is one of the works that includes more idioms (*bear market*, *blue chip*, *gilt-edged value*, *talk shop*, *sleeping partner*) and the one that shows more appearances of most of them (though I did not find *mercado a la baja* in the Spanish part):

**bear**<sup>1</sup> *n* ACC, BANK, STOCK *bajista m*; ~ **account**; ~ **call spread**; ~ **campaign**; ~ **closing**; ~ **covering**; ~ **hug**;  
 ~ **market** STOCK *mercado bajista m*, *mercado a la baja m*;  
 ~ **operation**; ~ **position**; ~ **put spread**; ~ **raid**; ~ **raiding**; ~ **sale**; ~ **speculation**; ~ **spread**; ~ **squeeze**; ~ **strike price**; ~ **transaction**.

**bearish**<sup>2</sup> ~ **market** *n* STOCK *Mercado a la baja m*; ~ **movement**; ~ **signal information**; ~ **spread**; ~ **tone**.

**mercado**<sup>1</sup> *m* COM GEN *market, marketplace*  
 ~ **bajista** BOLSA *bear market, declining market*.

**blue**: ~ **book**; ~ **button**;

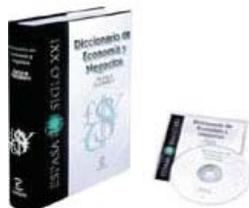
~ **chip** *n* FIN STOCK *valor de primera clase m*; ~ **chip company** *n* STOCK *compañía de acciones de primera clase f*; ~ **chip customer** *n* GE COMM *cliente de primer orden mf*; ~ **chip industrials** *n pl* STOCK *valores industriales de primera clase m pl*; ~ **chip securities** *n pl* STOCK *valores de primera clase m pl*; ~ **chip stock** *n* STOCK *acciones de primer orden f pl*; ~ **chips** *n pl* FIN *acciones selectas f pl*; STOCK *valores seguros*;  
 ~ **-collar worker**; ~ **economy**; ~ **laws**; ~ **sky**; ~ **sky bargaining**; ~ **sky law**; ~ **sky research**.

**acciones** *f pl* COM GEN *títulos, valores, capital stocks (stcks, stks), zares (shs)*

~ **de primer orden** BOLSA *blue-chip stock*.

**valores** *m pl* BANCA *zares (shs)*, BOLSA *equities*, COM GEN *securities, val-uables*, CONT *zares (shs)*, FIN *shares (shs)*, paper (*infrml*)

~ **industriales de primera clase** BOLSA blue chip industrials; ~ **de primera clase** BOLSA blue chip securities.



3. The *Diccionario Espasa Economía y Negocios (DEEN)* (1997) presents more than 5,000 articles backed up by the prestige and experience of Arthur Andersen, together with precise updated definitions in a clear style (due to its nature as a monolingual work with bilingual orientation). It offers the user all the branches of the knowledge of economics in a single work. It includes

abbreviations that specify the field the idiom is used in (*Bn.* Banca, *Fin.* Financiero, *Sds.* Sociedades). Each lemma is translated into English and a final English-Spanish inverse vocabulary is included to improve the chances of finding any expression. Nevertheless, if you start from the English construction, you will need two searches (first that of the English expression in the final index, then that of its Spanish equivalent that is defined in the main body of the book). The dictionary does not include phraseological labels or other syntactic-semantic information. Although it contains the two idioms I considered in the study, it does not show the rest of the figurative expressions I investigated (*gilt-edged securities, talk shop*):

**bear hug**

**bear market** a la baja, mercado bajista

**bear operator, bear position**

**bearish**

**a la baja** (*bear market, bearish downward*)

*Bn, Fin.* Expresión aplicada a algunos documentos que indica que pueden ser transmitidos simplemente por endoso.

**mercado bajista** (*bear market*)

*Fin.* Mercado en el que los precios se encuentran en descenso y en el que se realizan numerosas operaciones de venta.

**blue chip** blue chip, valor seguro

**“Blue Chip”** (*Blue Chip*)

*Fin.* Título-valor puntero. Término inglés que se refiere a valores que aseguran buenas posiciones en Bolsa debido a su gran calidad, a que tienden a aumentar su cotización y a que su volumen de contratación es alto. En el negocio bursátil. “Blue Chip” se refiere a las acciones de

las compañías con más prestigio que suelen alcanzar precios altos y ofrecer rendimientos relativamente bajos.

**valor seguro** (*blue chip*) *Fin.* Véase *blue chip*



4. The *Diccionario de Términos Financieros y de Inversión (DTFI)* (1998), by Mochón Morcillo and Isidro Aparicio, has approximately 2,500 terms with their English equivalents. Definitions of the essential economic notions are explained in depth and are cross-referenced. The entries are arranged in alphabetical order. It employs the sign // to separate the different meanings of polysemous terms. Like the previous dictionary,

this one contains a separate list of English-Spanish terms that makes it easier to look for concepts when you only know the English version of a construction, but again you will need two searches. It also includes a list of English-Spanish abbreviations and acronyms. Once more, the dictionary has no phraseological value. Although it shows one more construction related to *bear market*, the expressions are not identified as idiomatic and you do not find similar metaphorical expressions such as *sleeping partner* or *talk shop*. On the other hand, it is surprising not to find the definition of *bear*. The merit of this work consists in presenting clear definitions, in some cases related to the institution that uses the construction or to its motivation, but it includes scarce lexical content with the PUs:

**Bear bond, Bear hug**

**Bear market** Mercado bajista

**Bear raid, Bear spread**

**Bearish**

**Mercado bajista** (*Bear Market*) Situación de un mercado que se caracteriza por una tendencia de caída de precios y volúmenes de contratación.

**Bajista** (*Bearish*) Referido a un mercado, indica que se espera una caída en los precios o cotizaciones y, en consecuencia, una subida en los tipos de interés. Las expectativas de caída de los precios presionan a la venta, lo que a su vez refuerza dichas expectativas.

**Blue-chips** *Blue-chips*

**Blue-chips** (*Blue-chips*) Con este nombre se designa en *Wall Street*, Bolsa de Nueva York, a los títulos de las empresas de primera fila, de cotización estable y buenos rendimientos, que ofrecen mayor seguridad al inversor.



5. The *Diccionario de Términos Económicos, Financieros y Comerciales (DTEFC)* (2002), compiled by Alcaraz Varó and Hughes, continues and complements the *Diccionario de términos jurídicos* (Ariel Derecho 1993) and is aimed mainly at translators, students, and professionals of the different branches of economic sciences. The didactic criterion used constitutes one of its best advantages. Unlike the previous books, this one does include definitions, clear examples, and explanations, including the treatment of idioms that help limit and clarify the meaning of many new phraseological units not included in other dictionaries. In addition, the introduction is a brilliant reflection on the register differences between the three linguistic varieties of economics, the economic, financial and commercial languages. The dictionary boasts of having included a great number of the frequent colloquial expressions related to the financial world, many of which have an idiomatic character (*The pound took a beating*, “la libra quedó maltrecha o fue vapuleada,” *Firms in the sector have beefed up their prices*, “han pegado una subida brutal a los precios,”)<sup>9</sup> although idioms are not identified as such. Even so, this work shows one of the best treatments of phraseology. Each entry comprises the lemma, its translation, a short example which contextualizes the meaning conveyed and explanations for the translator, when they are required by the novelty or complexity

<sup>9</sup> This tendency is due to *The Economist* and its marked preference for the colloquial terms of American English, a relaxed style, the witty colourful expressions that are conquering the financial world. The dictionary has been compiled with material from economic newspapers and magazines (*Financial Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *International Herald Tribune*, *The Economist*). In Spanish, publications such as: *Cinco Días*, *Expansión*, *La Gaceta de los Negocios*, *El País Negocios*, *ABC*, *El Mundo*, *Diario 16*, *La Actualidad Económica*, *Ranking* have been consulted, which have provided the register and tone of many expressions (*perforar el suelo*, *los embates de la competencia*, *chiringuitos financieros*, *varapalo bajista*) and have also supplied the English term in italics, its meaning in Spanish and, sometimes, a clear explanation of its use.

of the term. Meaning is complemented by short descriptions and references to related words at the end of articles preceded by V. (véase) o S. (*see*) that enhance clarity. Partial synonyms go before a comma, antonyms or related words before semicolon. Polysemous terms are shown with numbers after the entry, repetition which goes against the principle of economy but in favour of clarity. The authors use the abbreviation *US* when the construction is only used in American English, or when the meaning indicated is different from that used in the United Kingdom. However, the frontiers between American and British English are becoming more and more blurred and terms are practically interchangeable between the two (Alcaraz Varó & Hughes 2002: 7-23). A subject-field label is added when the term has a concrete field of application. Not all the words of one part are contained in the other because what is a lexical unit in one section can be a mere paraphrase in the other. In fact, the English-Spanish part is full of explanations that have been omitted in the Spanish-English section for the sake of economy and have been substituted, on the other hand, by synonyms and related words that help the user choose the right meaning. The phraseological units are introduced by the general label *fr [phr]*, which implies that the DTEFC, in spite of including varied lexical information, fails to classify conveniently the different types of PUs it comprises or to use adequately the terms *phraseological unit* or/and *idiom*. Likewise, the book does not differentiate between the uses of the same term as a noun and as a verb, which can lead the user to an error (personally, I have marked with a star the uses of *bear* as a noun to differentiate them from those that function as verbs). All in all, I believe that this dictionary surpasses most of the previous works due to the number of idioms contained and the quality and exhaustiveness of its entries:

- It shows all the expressions investigated (*bear market, blue chip, gilt-edged stock, sleeping partner*) but one (*talk shop*).
- It includes almost as many expressions related to *bear market* as the DBEE (the last one also contains *bear operator* and *bear spread*):

**bear**<sup>1</sup> *a/n/v*: bajista; con tendencia a la baja; pesimista; inversor bursátil con expectativas bajistas; especulador que vende valores porque espera una caída en los precios y, de esta manera, comprará a un precio inferior, con la consecuente ganancia, lo que ha vendido; oso; especular a la baja; provocar bajas en el mercado; el uso de la palabra *bear* en el

contexto de “bajista”, etc., probablemente venga del dicho inglés *selling the bearskin before catching the bear* –vender la piel del oso antes de cazarlo; V: *bull, bull market; averaging down; sell short; covered/protected bear*.

**bear<sup>2</sup> bear<sup>3</sup>**

**bear a loss, \*bear account, \*bear bond, \*bear campaign, \*bear clique, \*bear closing/covering, bear down prices, \*bear hug, bear interest**

**bear market** (BOLSA COMER Mercado bajista, a la baja o replegado a la baja; en este tipo de mercado los especuladores suelen vender valores, divisas o productos sobre los que no poseen más que acciones; V. *selling short*).

**\*bear note, bear on, bear out, \*bear panic, \*bear period, \*bear position, \*bear raid/raiding, bear resemblance, \*bear run, \*bear sale, \*bear seller, \*bear slide, \*bear spread, \*bear squeeze, bear the expenses, bear the market, bear time spread.**

**bearish, \*bearish covering, \*bearish mind, \*bearish remark, \*bearish tendency**

**mercado *n***

**mercado a la baja, deprimido o replegado** (bear/ declining/ depressed market; S. *bolsa débil*).

**mercado bajista, a la baja, replegado a la baja** (bear market).

**blue a:**

**blue book**

**blue chip** (de confianza, estelar, de primera fila. *JP Morgan is a blue-chip American Bank*), **blue chips, blue chip stock** (FINAN valores punteros/ estrella, títulos de primera, acciones triple A), **blue chip stock** (BOLSA valores seguros, valores punteros en bolsa, valores sólidos o de toda confianza; V. *leaders, gilt-edged securities, high grade bond, fallen angel*).

**valor *n*:**

valor de primera clase (S. *valores estrella*)

**valores *n*:**

**valores de canto rodado** (gilt-edged securities, blue chip securities; S. *valores de primera clase*)

**valores de primera clase o de toda confianza** (gilt-edged/blue chip securities; S. *valores de canto rodado*)

**valores estrellas** (blue chips, gilt-edged securities; S. *valores de canto rodado*)

**valores punteros, estrellas o seguros** (blue chip stock, leaders, alpha securities/stock/shares).



6. The *English-Spanish Banking Dictionary (ESBD)* (2000), elaborated by Gil Esteban, unlike the other books (it is only similar to the DTEFC in this sense), has the aim of collecting the technical terms used in banking, together with many of the colloquial words and expressions that are used informally by bankers and are known as “banking jargon.” The book shows many of these constructions with the register label (col.). It also aims to offer as many definitions and/or translation equivalents from

English to Spanish (and *vice versa*) as possible. Nevertheless, the dictionary does not present definitions but mainly translations; it looks like a list of lemmas with their equivalents; it fails to use abbreviations systematically as these mix different classes of indications (register, geographical, grammatical). Although it just contains three of the idioms studied (*bear market*, *blue chip*, *gilt-edged securities*), I include this work because it is the one that provides more constructions related to *blue-chip*: the following transmit the positive sense that “blue” has in this idiom (*blue button*, *blue chips*, *blue-ribbon*, *blueprint*) and the rest suggest more negative connotations (*blue collar worker*, *blue law*, *blue-pencil*):

**bear**, a la baja; en baja; en descenso; decreciente (adj., masc. & fem.)  
**bear bond**, **bear covering**,  
**bear market**, mercado bajista; mercado a la baja.  
**bear sale**, **bear spread**, **bear trap**  
**bearish**, **bearish attitude towards**, **bearish covering**, **bearish market**, **bearish tendency**.

**mercado a la baja**, bearish market; active market  
**mercado bajista**, bearish market; bear market.

**blue button**, **blue collar worker**,  
**blue chips** (col.) acciones de primera clase, acciones de primera categoría, valores bursátiles de gran capitalización.  
**blue law**, **blue onips**,  
**blue-chip** (adj.) de primera clase, de primera categoría, de primer orden, de mínimo riesgo.  
**blue-chip shares** acciones de primera clase, acciones de primera categoría, valores bursátiles de gran capitalización.  
**blue-pencil**, **blue-ribbon**, **blueprint**, **blue-sky law**,

**acciones de primera clase**, blue chips(col.); blue chip zares; blue chip onips (col.).



7. The *Diccionario Económico-Financiero Inglés-Español (DEFIE)* (2000) does not pretend to be an exhaustive work, but rather to offer a useful, practical tool to a wide range of professional and inexperienced users. Ruiz de Canales explains the economic terminology traditionally employed in the Anglo-Saxon world, the expressions used in Wall Street and other important markets such as London, Frankfurt, Paris, Madrid, or Tokyo. Unlike the other dictionaries, it contains only an English-Spanish section which includes the translation equivalents in Spanish, in brackets, next to the English lemma. The use of the geographical abbreviations or those of references is not systematic. The layout is bare; the book does not consider the difference between the types of phraseological units, and does not include either examples or other kinds of lexical information. However, I take it into account because it contains new expressions related to those analyzed, one with *bear market* (*bear hug takeover*) and two with *blue chips* (*blue lost book* y *blue sky law*):

**Bear, Bearish, Bear account, Bear campaign, Bear hug, Bear hug takeover**

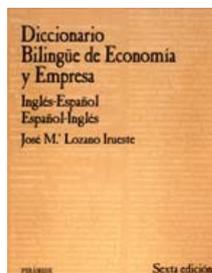
**Bear market** (Mercado bajista) Periodo durante el cual las acciones bajan, ya que los accionistas venden pensando que el mercado descenderá aún más.

**Bear position, Bear raid, Bear spread, Bear squeeze**

**Blue book**

**Blue chips** (Acciones estrella) Valores libres de riesgo de una buena empresa y que cuenta con un buen historial de dividendos.

**Blue lost book, Blue sky law**



8. The aim of the *Diccionario Bilingüe de Economía y Empresa, Inglés-Español, Español-Inglés (DBEE)* (2001), as Lozano Irueste explains in the introduction, is to correct the absence of a dictionary which offers Spanish translations of the words and constructions frequent in the economic bibliography in the English language, to contribute to the development of the Spanish economic discourse. The author presumes that there is no bilingual business dictionary in any language as comprehensive as his. Certainly, its six editions complete and update the work. The first one consists of two parts with around 35,000 words in each language (though Lozano Irueste recognizes later that he miscalculated and the correct number of entries amounted to more than 40,000). The third edition computerizes the text to offer the reader a rapidly updated publication (which is especially important in economics). The sixth edition, the last one, adds 18,533 articles to the book that finally consists of 61,808 terms and expressions in the Spanish-English section and 53,507 in the second part. The DBEE selects English words and expressions frequent in business texts that belong to all the branches of economics, to related sciences (law, statistics, computing) and to the common lexicon. It takes into account the terms habitually used in Spanish speaking countries, mainly those exclusively employed there. In spite of all this, Lozano Irueste does not pretend to have compiled an exhaustive work but rather one that explores all the search possibilities available. Thus, the dictionary focuses on translation and presents the translation equivalent preferred by businessmen, or the one included in the big glossaries of economic terms, like that of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, whose authority is unanimously recognized. If several translation possibilities are accepted, the dictionary provides all of them; when there is still no accepted translation, one is proposed and is generally successful (*crowding-out-effect* “efecto expulsión”, *flypaper effect* “efecto de adherencia”). Like the previous works, it can be objected that this dictionary does not use labels for each type of phraseological unit; these units are included arbitrarily, either after the definition, or in the independent section devoted to them at the end of the entry; and the choice between one of the two possibilities is taken depending on the words that precede or follow the lemma. Furthermore, the book presents together the

uses of a term as a noun and as a verb; keywords are followed by long lists of phraseological units without any indication of the type of unit, and as a result, it is difficult to remember the meaning of each construction independently or to see the difference between them. The work seldom includes examples of use or information of other kinds. Both comma and brackets are used to mark synonymous expressions with apparently no significant difference between them, when I do not think two symbols are necessary to convey just one function. One of the advantages of the dictionary is the inclusion of references to synonymous or antonymous expressions, as well as the great number of polylexematic variants that are offered with each lemma, 26 idiomatic for *bear* (again, I have marked with a star those which are nouns), though it does not contain some of the idioms I analyzed (*blue chip, gilt-edged, talk shop*):

**\*bear** (n.)

**b.** (v. tr. y v. intr.) Soportar, llevar, tener, devengar. Especular a la baja

**b. a loss, \*b. account, b. all costs & risks, \*b. bond, \*b. campaign, \*b. clique, \*b. covering, short covering, b. down prices, \*b. hug, b. interest (earn interest),**

**\*b. market** Mercado a la baja, bajista

**\*b. note, b. on, \*b. operator, b. out, \*b. panic (stampede), \*b. period, \*b. position, \*b. raid, \*b. raiding, b. resemblance, \*b. run, \*b. sale, \*b. seller, \*b. spread, \*b. slide, \*b. squeeze, b. the expenses, b. the market, b. time speed, b. upon (or to bear on).**

**\*bearish** (adj.) A la baja

**\*b. covering** Compra de cobertura

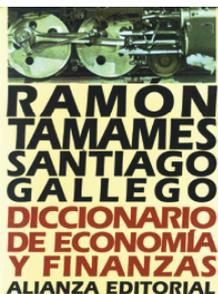
**\*b. mind** Actitud bajista o pesimista (Bolsa)

**\*b. remark** Comentario pesimista

**\*b. tendency** Tendencia a la baja

**mercado** (n.)

**m. a la baja, bajista** Bear market. Heavy (depressed) market.



9. The *Diccionario de Economía y Finanzas* (*DEF*) (2002), by the well-known Spanish economist Ramón Tamames, comprises over 6,000 articles that synthesize the essence of the science of economics. Each term is followed by its English version. The book includes statistical concepts, together with the fundamental notions of the vast financial world. It devotes wide sections to the schools of economic thought and the organisms of global economy. In the “Apéndice gráfico y matemático” the reader can learn about prices, financial circuits, analytic diagrams, variable distribution. Lázaro Carreter, in the prologue, estimates the book is a real encyclopaedia, “un repertorio con el que los autores prestan un importante servicio a la lengua española”. The dictionary includes an initial index of abbreviations, it shows a thematic organization (expressions are distributed in topics like banking, applied economy, management) and provides two more term indexes (Spanish-English and English-Spanish) at the end. Its main drawbacks are that it does not distinguish the different PUs, and the use of abbreviations and indications (*E.i.*; R.U.) is not clear, so that you need from two to three steps to locate idioms: in the final index in English, I did not find *sleeping partner*, but I did find *bear* (“bajista”), *bear hug* (“abrazo del oso”), *bear market* (“mercado ‘bear’”), *bearish* (“bajista”), *blue chip* (véase definición<sup>10</sup>). However, I also observed that idioms are accompanied by detailed encyclopaedic information as to the origin of some of them (*blue chip*):

**bear**

**bear hug, bearish**

**bear market** Véase *mercado bear*

**bearish**

**mercado “bear”** En la jerga bursátil norteamericana y, por extensión, en toda la mundial, la calificación de “bear” (el oso) hace referencia al caso de rápidas bajas en la cotización de los valores, que pueden ser aprovechadas para volver a entrar en el mercado, o que pueden conducir a un largo *estancamiento* del mismo. *E.i.*: *bear market*.

<sup>10</sup> The dictionary uses this formula instead of the translation equivalent to indicate that a term constitutes a borrowing in Spanish and to refer to its definition in the Spanish section.

**blue chip** Véase definición

**blue chip** En los países anglosajones y en el negocio bursátil, referencia a las acciones de las compañías más prestigiadas por la calidad y la amplia aceptación de sus productos o servicios, y por su capacidad prácticamente garantizada de generar dividendos. Tales acciones alcanzan normalmente precios altos, y ofrecen rendimientos relativamente bajos. El origen de este término es el nombre que en los EEUU se daba, por su color, a las fichas de póquer de más alto valor. Puede traducirse por “valores punteros”.

### 3.3. Multilingual Business Dictionaries

These are the less informative works. They present simple or compound lemmas, accompanied by their translation equivalents in as many columns as the languages considered, but just a few of them consider definitions or phraseological information:



1. The *Diccionario Económico, Financiero y Bursátil, español-inglés-francés (DEFBEI)*, by Cano Rico (1994), contains about 15,000 entries used in the financial environment in three basic languages: Spanish, English, and French. The book is divided into three sections, each of which comprises lemmas in a main language and their translation in the other two, so that it finally contains almost 5,000 words in each language. It does not offer definitions but only the translation equivalents of terms

and demonstrates a very limited conception of lexical units in general. The dictionary does not include references to semantically-related expressions or other classes of complementary lexical-grammatical information and it does not classify PUs. It offers four expressions related to *bear market*, and two possibilities for *blue chip* (among them a new construction: *blue cheap leaders*), but does not contemplate *sleeping partner* or *talk shop*:

**Bear** – bajista

**Bear (to) the market**

**Bear market** – Mercado a la baja// mercado bajista// mercado replegado

**Bear position,**

**Bearish** – bajista

**Blue chips** – canto dorado (valores de)// valores seguros  
**Blue chip leaders** – valores destacados



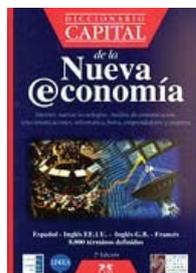
2. The *Diccionario Multilingüe de Economía y Empresa (DMEE)* (2000) includes approximately 2,000 specialized articles, intended for both foreign professionals and students of superior and intermediate levels. The value of this work, if it is compared to the previous one, is that it translates terminology to the four main languages of international economy and that it provides additional information in the final appendixes (international abbreviations and terms frequently used in business, main international economic organizations, and frequent abbreviations in business correspondence in Spanish). The dictionary begins with the definitions of concepts in Spanish that are followed by their translation in English, French, Italian, and German. The remainder of the dictionary is made up of four vocabularies: English-Spanish, French-Spanish, Italian-Spanish, and German-Spanish. The words appear in strict alphabetical order (articles and prepositions included), the different meanings of each lemma are distinguished with numbers, and definitions include references in bold type to economic basic concepts. In my enquiries, I needed two searches: first I looked up the expressions in English to find their Spanish equivalents, and then I consulted these Spanish definitions to study the correspondence between the expressions in the two languages. The work presents the clearest definitions of those studied that provide the lemma collocations in context. Nevertheless, the only lexical information I found are definitions and translation equivalents. Idioms are not identified as such and the book does not include many of the metaphorical constructions analyzed (to be precise, *blue chip*, *gilt-edged securities*, *talk shop*):

**bear:** bajista (2)

**bearish:** bajista (1)

**bajista.** (Ing. 1 *bearish* 2. *bear* // Fr. 1. *à la baisse*. 2. *baissier* // It. 1. *al ribazo*. 2. *ribassista* // Al. 1. *Baisse*-.2. *Baissespekulant*, *Baissier*.)

**1.** Estado de un Mercado en el que se espera la **depreciación** de un **bien** o **valor**, circunstancia que aumenta la presión vendedora. **2.** Persona que ante la expectativa del descenso del precio de un bien o valor lo vende, confiando en comprarlo posteriormente para obtener así un **beneficio**.



3. The *Diccionario Capital de la Nueva Economía* (*DCNE*) (2000) is composed of 8,000 terms defined and translated into American and British English and French<sup>11</sup>. Actually, it is formed by a dictionary with definitions in Spanish, translations into English and French, and two indexes (English-Spanish and French-Spanish). In that way, as I deal with the English expressions, again, I had to search idioms twice to get to their Spanish definition. The work selects

basic business terms together with some others from Internet and the new technologies industries. It is the only Spanish dictionary that has received the support of *Lingua* and *Leonardo da Vinci* (European Union programmes to disseminate the European languages in executives' training courses). The dictionary's purpose is to counteract the invasion of American business terms and the lack of precision in their use. In fact, the multidisciplinary team of eleven authors is in favour of adapting the Spanish terms in the translation of the English ones whenever possible, so that terms are clear and precise and contribute to the development and enrichment of the Spanish language. The positive results of this objective are reflected in the translation of *blue chip* that includes a possibility not considered up to the moment (*valor azul*):

**bear market** - mercado bajista

**bear spread**

**bearish** - bajista

**mercado bajista** / *bear market* / *F: marché en baisse*

Mercado cuyos precios y volúmenes de contratación están en situación de descenso o a la baja. Predomina el pesimismo.

**blue chip** – valor azul

**blue chips** – valores excedentes

**blue-chip stock** – valor estrella

**bluetooth**

**valor azul** / *blue chip* / *F: valeur vedette*

Traducción literal equivalente a uno de los valores estrella o excelentes que se cotizan en una determinada bolsa.

<sup>11</sup> The CD-ROM version also contains: German, Italian, Dutch, Swedish, Danish, Finnish, Portuguese, Norwegian, Icelandic, Greek, and definitions are also given in: English, French, German, and Italian.

**valores excelentes / blue chips** / F: *valeurs vedettes, valeurs de fonds de portefeuille*

Valores cotizados en una o más bolsas de comercio con gran capitalización y liquidez, correspondientes a empresas de primera clase, por lo que ofrecen gran seguridad y liquidez. Tienen poca volatilidad y menos rentabilidad a corto plazo que los chicharros que son más especulativos. Estos valores configuran la mayor parte de las carteras de inversión. La denominación más correcta es valores estrella, aunque también se usa la expresión valores estrellas o punteros.

**valor estrella / blue-chip stock** / IB: *blue-chip share*/ F: *valor étoile*

Valor con amplio respaldo del público e institucional que suele caracterizarse por una gran liquidez y seguridad y una tendencia de los beneficios y de la cotización al alza.

#### 4. Conclusions. The treatment of idioms in business dictionaries

The *monolingual business dictionaries* (LDBE y ODBE), like the general monolingual works, do not indicate the classes of phraseological units, but mark figurative meanings and accompany idioms with clear definitions and examples (usually contextualized). Unlike the general monolingual works and, contrary to what should be expected of specialized dictionaries, the books published in English show the metaphorical constructions with a high degree of syntactic-semantic information: grammatical observations, register and subject-field labels, variants, information about the different meanings of polysemous and antonymous idioms, related phraseological units, and a complete system of cross-references. The limited focus of the books published in Spain (DTE, DAEM y DTEAF) leave much to be desired when compared to the previous dictionaries, as they do not show phraseological, grammatical, pragmatic labelling, or contextual examples.

The *bilingual business dictionaries*, like the general bilingual ones, do not usually offer a definition with idioms (with the exception of some of the works published in Spain), but are significant for this study because they include the polylexematic variants of expressions, followed by their translation equivalents. In this case the supremacy of the English lexicographical tradition that has been pointed out in the previous dictionaries is not observed, as I would emphasize, apart from an Anglo-Saxon work (SDBCF due to the great number of expressions it contains), two Spanish dictionaries (DTEFC because of the quality of its ar-

ticles, and DBEE as it promotes those factors relevant to translation). As regards their treatment of phraseology, the bilingual specialized works present the following characteristics:

- These dictionaries do not normally identify the different types of phraseological units.
- They do not include as many idioms as they should.
- They not always contain the necessary information (orthographic, morphologic, semantic and functional) or contextual examples that help use a figurative construction correctly.
- These resources do not use systematically typographical signs to distinguish the previous lexical categories.
- They offer several translation equivalents for the same idiom, but do not indicate the frequency of each or provide criteria that help the user choose the right one for a particular context.
- The Spanish and English sections are inconsistent, as they show different versions of idioms and their translation equivalents.

In spite of these limitations, some of the works investigated transmit a high degree of syntactic-semantic information by means of adequate typographical suggestions that could be applied to the microstructure of the ideal business dictionary:

- DTEFC presents a good treatment of phraseology (although idioms are not identified as such): each entry is made up of the lemma, a translation, an example, explanations for the translator and references to related words; a subject-field label is included; the different meanings of polysemous terms are differentiated with numbers; partial synonyms are followed by a comma and antonyms by a semicolon. The English-Spanish part has plenty of explanations, whereas the Spanish-English section favours synonyms and semantically-related words.
- SDBCF offers varied lexical-collocational information in italics directed to text production and translation: subject-field labels, alphabetically-ordered, help choose the right translation; when an expression has several possible translations, the dictionary opts for the one experts consider more plausible; and a definition or paraphrase is indicated with different typography when there is no direct equivalence.
- DBEE also pays great attention to the details that bring about a good translation: it offers the translation version preferred by economists or the great business glossaries; it tries to suggest as many translation equivalents as

possible and to propose a good equivalent for those constructions that still do not have a normalized one.

The *multilingual business dictionaries* do not offer definitions of idioms, nor do they include cross-references to semantically-related expressions or other complementary lexical-grammatical information (DEFBEI); therefore, their value resides in offering the translation equivalents of expressions in several languages. Some of them include wide encyclopaedic knowledge in appendixes (DMEE). In general, these works show a limited conception of the phraseological units, as none of the books analyzed distinguishes their classes:

- DMEE contains more lexical information: the different meanings of an entry are differentiated with numbers; references in bold type to basic economic concepts are included and definitions are clear and provide the lemma collocations in a context.
- DCNE is useful for translation: it recommends adapting the translations of English expressions to the Spanish morphology if the resulting constructions are clear, precise, and contribute to the enrichment of Spanish.

The present analysis ratifies the general deficiencies of specialized dictionaries that were pointed out by Ahmad et al. (1995) and the appendix of the Pointer Report (section 3: 85). These works do not always include phraseology; they do not often show a definition with the lexical units, and when they do, it shows varying degrees of quality and clarity; the definition and encyclopaedic information are not enough to satisfy the users' needs; and these dictionaries do not incorporate enough lexical or grammatical information either, so that the user will not know the syntactic behaviour of a term or expression, or which translation equivalent to choose when several possibilities are given.

To solve these deficiencies, the specialized resources should copy the general (Fraile Vicente, In press c) and phraseological (Fraile Vicente, In press d) dictionaries that accompany idioms of generous lexico-semantic information categories (orthographic, semantic and grammatical indications) that guide the less expert user to the more adequate translation suggestion. Nevertheless, the result of this evolution is an article more and more complex, so that the main problem of the lexicographer becomes how to reconcile the lack of space in the dictionary with the enormous quantity of information he wants to introduce and in such a way that users know how to find it. Usually, the content is presented

with abbreviations, symbols and other typographical conventions that occupy less space but, at the same time, make reading difficult if they are not used in a clear and systematic way (Hastings, 2000: 111-113).

All things considered, a new type of dictionary is suggested that treats both idioms and other related phraseological units. It is hoped that, in the near future, joint research by lexicographers and *phraseologists* will enable them to discover the new categories of PUs that are now being surmised and enable them to describe conveniently their meaning, written and oral form, syntactic and pragmatic functions. Moreover, dictionaries should count on more flexible access to information, versions in electronic format and CD-Rom that allow rapid and simple data access.

Electronic programs offer new opportunities, unexplored up to now, for the study of phraseology and idiomaticity at all levels. In this sense, I am in favour of a *specialized lexicography* which constitutes a bridge between lexicography and terminology, so that the products of the three related disciplines (general dictionaries in lexicology, specialized dictionaries in lexicography and databases in terminology) can benefit mutually (Fraile Vicente, 2005: 430). Many of the limitations I have pointed out could be solved if LSP dictionaries were organized conceptually and not alphabetically. Certainly, specialized lexicography should break away from the traditional semasiological orientation and opt for a mixed methodology: a lexicographical approach that considers the units from the general language that form part of the specialized discourse, and a terminographical view that represents the vocabulary conceptually and reveals the relationship between concepts (Cabré Castellví 1993; Cartagena 1996 and Picht 1995 apud Tercedor Sánchez 1999: §3.1).

Translators find a terminographical approach to the lexicographical entries built around concepts more useful because these professionals work with words but translate concepts (Bononno, 2000: 650-652). Every specialized dictionary should be based on the conceptual knowledge that is vital for the translator to disambiguate the text and structure his version conveniently, as this professional is accustomed to finding the original terms without a descriptive context, or more reference than the text, that can be either illuminating or ambiguous. The conceptual structure of a domain guides the selection of the lexical units to be included in the dictionary, places each of them inside a structured set, and

allows one to delimit their meaning, to associate terms and identify the most suitable equivalent in the target language (Gómez González-Jover & Vargas Sierra, 2004: §5). Besides, the dictionary is the typical resource used by translators but not the only one. Other linguistic tools such as text corpora and terminological databases can be used independently or combined (Palomares Perrault y Pinto, 2000: 98-124).

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