

**Software for Processing Spanish: Products
by Word Magic Software**

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The disc Word Magic Tools created by Word Magic Software contains useful programs that will most certainly come in handy for those users who have to work with the Spanish and English languages. It contains a number of tools ranging from a spellchecker, a thesaurus, educational games, dictionary to the machine translation system.

Installation of all the products of Word Magic Tools is an easy process that takes several minutes and doesn't produce any difficulties for the users of MS Windows '95. The installation instructions that appear on the screen are easy to follow and don't leave any room for doubt.

The interface of the tools appears to be carefully thought-out. A user can easily switch interface language from Spanish to English and vice versa. There are no unnecessary buttons, or functions that would appear excessive, and those that are present in the programs are simple to use. In spite of the great variety of functions it is possible to learn to work with the tools without reading instructions. The programs are designed so that they can be used for multiple purposes, such as, for example, the thesaurus, which allows to search for the synonyms not only to the translation of a word but also to the word itself. This function is ideal for those who are working on creating a paper and usually need to search for a more precise meaning of a word.

ENGLISH-SPANISH INTERPRETER

Among all the Word Magic Tools the English-Spanish Interpreter is

the most complicated program that deserves closer attention. Without doubt this product is one of the best of its kind. In order to be able to evaluate this valuable system more precisely two different surveys were undertaken. The first of them was a comparison between the Word Magic Tools Interpreter and the similar products of Globalink and Systran. Each of the systems translated a number of sentences that would normally represent a difficulty for an MT system. The duality of different parts of speech was one of the points under consideration. It is certain that the Magic Word Tools Interpreter handles the translation of sentences that contain such problematic moments much better than the other two systems. Let's take, for example, the following sentences that can be interpreted differently. While it should be easy for a human translator to see through the duality, it is certainly very difficult to «teach» an MT system to convey in the target sentence the exact meaning of the source one. The translation made by WM Tools is compared here with those by Globalink and Systran systems.

1. *I told my brother doctors are expensive,*

WM: Dije a mi hermano que los doctores cuestan caro.

G: Yo dije que mis doctores del hermano son caros

S: Dije a mi hermano que los doctores son costosos.

This example shows that while Systran and WM translated the sentence correctly, Globalink failed to do so. In the similar example that follows both Systran and Globalink make the same mistake in a tricky sentence that was put for translation, while the translation made by WM Interpreter makes much more sense.

2. *I have the impression code may have been lost.*

WM: Tengo la impresión que el código pudo haberse perdido.

G: Yo tengo el código de impresión puede haber estado perdido.

S: Tengo el código de la impresión pude haber sido perdido.

The following sentence wasn't translated correctly by either Systran or Globalink systems:

3. *I give the dog food.*

WM: Doy al perro la comida.

G: Yo doy la comida del perro.

S: Doy el alimento de perro.

As we can see, WM Interpreter manages to recognize the duality and produce the right translation, while Globalink and Systran don't always have means within their systems that would enable them to translate correctly such complicated sentences.

The WM Tools Interpreter also manages not to confuse different parts of speech in a sentence when they may look the same but have different meaning and have different function within the sentence. The following example clearly shows that this problem, which is solved in WM Tools and Systran, is still a problem for Globalink.

4. *The man forecast the news in the radio.*

WM: El hombre pronosticó las noticias en el radio.

G: La previsión del hombre las noticias en la radio.

S: El hombre pronosticó las noticias en la radio.

It would be fair to add, however, that WM Interpreter doesn't always avoid such an ambiguity. In the sentence that follows WM makes a similar mistake:

5. *However, for an innocent soul driven by ideas that are based solely on fantasy reality can prove destructive.*

Sin embargo, para un alma inocente conducidas por las ideas que se fundan solamente en la realidad de fantasía pueden probar destructivas.

The vocabulary of WM Tools is rich enough to avoid many

mistakes that can be a result of the lack of a sufficient number of set expressions. Thus, the expression “bring up” in the following sentences only makes sense in the translation made by WM Interpreter.

6. *Mary was brought up in the city.*

WM: Maria fue criada en la ciudad.

G: Mary se planteó en la ciudad.

S: Trajeron Maria para arriba en la ciudad.

The same problem arises in the following sentence:

7. *I am out of money.*

WM: Estoy sin dinero.

G: Yo estoy fuera de dinero.

S: Estoy fuera de dinero.

The richness of vocabulary also helped WM system translate the expression «dog-eared» that posed a problem to the other two systems:

8. *He dog-eared the book.*

WM: El dobló la esquina del libro.

G: El perro-eared el libro.

S: El perro-espigado el libro.

The following example demonstrates that, although for different reasons, Globalink and Systran fail to translate the sentence correctly. While Globalink isn't able to make the fine distinction between the expressions «actions turned on her» and «actions turned her on», Systran translates the sentence literally, word by word, which doesn't make the sense of the target sentence any clearer.

9. *Her actions turned on her.*

WM: Sus acciones se volvieron contra ella.

G: Sus acciones la encendieron.

S: Sus acciones dadas vuelta en ella.

A further survey of the possibilities of the WM Tools Interpreter was undertaken, during which the program was presented with a number of shorter and longer sentences and phrases to translate. These sentences contained most of the grammar tenses and moods. The experiment allows to make the conclusion that, although there are certain mistakes that the system makes, it deals brilliantly with long sentences preserving their structure in its integrity.

10. *Indeed, in Spain there is no great difference between the people of the North and that of the South; not like in Italy; here, as far as I can see, one can hardly tell an Andalusian from a Basque.*

Ciertamente, en España no hay gran diferencia entre la gente del norte y eso del sur; No como en Italia; Aquí, hasta donde yo veo, uno apenas puede distinguir a un andaluz de un vasco.

11. *Since then, I have mostly paid attention to machine translation, which remains my primary occupation.*

Desde entonces, en su mayor parte he puesto atención a la traducción por máquina, lo cual permanece mi ocupación primaria.

There are certain problem areas for WM Interpreter. Thus, for example, the subjunctive is not always used when necessary in impersonal expressions. We can see such mistakes in the following sentences:

12. *It is possible that he likes her.*

Es posible que a él le gusta ella.

13. *It is doubtful that they will come.*

Es dudoso que vendrán.

14. *It is possible that he knows it.*
Es posible que él lo conoce.

There is also a problem in sentences like

15. *May they be very happy!*

where May isn't recognized as a modal verb but as a name of the month. The translation of the sentence is, thus,

Mayo que sean muy contento!

Another problem area for WM Interpreter is translation of the *on + present participle* constructions. The program avoids using *al + gerundio* in this case.

16. *On leaving the Vales of Har, Thel doesn't get any answers to her problems.*

En dejar a los Vales de Har, Thel no lleva cualesquiera respuestas a sus problemas.

At the same time, it is by far not always that such a mistake is made, as one can see from the following sentence. The construction is used correctly and the sentence on the whole is translated brilliantly, in spite of its apparent complexity.

17. *Soviet spokesmen weren't hypocritical when claiming that the Constitution of the USSR provided more rights and freedoms than in any capitalist country because on paper the Constitution of the USSR really was offering to Soviet citizens more rights than constitutions of capitalist countries offered to their citizens.*

Los portavoces soviéticos no fueron hipócritas al reclamando que la Constitución del USSR proveyó más derechos y libertades que en cualquier país capitalista porque en papel

la Constitución del USSR en realidad ofrecía para los ciudadanos soviéticos más derechos que las constituciones de países capitalistas ofrecieron para sus ciudadanos.

In general it can be said that the translations produced by WM Interpreter are undoubtedly of a very high quality. In spite of the mistakes the target text gives clear understanding of the source one. The amount of postediting that would have to be done after the translation in order to make the text perfect is quite small.

MAGIC TOOLS PRO

- allows to look up the translations for English and Spanish words. When a word is entered into the Word to Search window, it opens and the user sees not only the word itself but also the word combinations with it.

There are also options that allow the user to see all the root expressions of the word (i.e. that is the expressions in which the word comes first), as well as related expressions (those in which the word can be encountered in any position).

- user can choose whether to look for translations or synonyms of a word, that way the product can be used as both dictionary and thesaurus.

- at the same time user can choose between Normal Display and Tree Display. In both options it is possible to see the translations of the word as representing different parts of speech. Thus the user can choose what part of speech he needs. At the same time an option Search Setup in Preferences allows to preset the needed part of speech if the user is sure about what he is looking for and doesn't want unnecessary information on the screen. This also allows to narrow down the search of related and root expressions with the word.

- the motion Mirror Thesaurus allows to at the same time search for translation of a word, its synonyms and the synonyms for its translations. The synonyms are in different colors, each of the colors representing the degree of synonymity. The color code button helps to understand the meaning of each color.

- there is also an option allowing to enter new words or new meanings to the words that already exist in the dictionary.

CONJUGATE! PRO

- the program allows to conjugate words in both languages and their translations at the same time in all the tenses that exist in these languages.
- user can choose between affirmative, negative and interrogative, as well as formal and informal patterns of conjugation.
- at the same time the program finds synonyms to the translation of the word entered by the user and these synonyms can be conjugated as well.

EXPRESSION BUILDER PRO

- this product is ideal for looking up expressions and the synonyms to these expressions. The user enters a word into the search window and in one part of the screen all the expressions with the word will appear. In the other part of the screen the user can see translations for each of the expressions found.
- the user can choose between the options Root and Ending, the former displaying all the expressions in which the word comes first and the latter all in which it comes last.
- the user can also choose between looking up translations or synonyms for expressions.

MAGIC NAVIGATION DICTIONARY

- this product is designed to be used while working with a text editor when a translation or a synonym is needed quickly. By highlighting a word in the text and pressing the right-hand mouse button a window appears where the translation or synonym of the word is looked up. The word in the text can be replaced instantly by its translation or synonym.