

NEW JERSEY'S SPANISH LEGAL TRANSLATION TEST

2000 Meeting, Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification
by
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1. Origins of Test and Test Design
 - a. Created circa Fall 1987
 - b. How texts were selected
 - c. Purposes of test
 - i. Minimum threshold for determining translation ability
 - ii. Identify court employees who should be allowed to do local translations and create capacity for identifying employees who should be prohibited from doing local translations
2. Grading Method
 - a. Holistic--everything graded, i.e., no sampling or scoring units
 - b. Repeated identical mistakes not counted after first instance
 - c. Both examiners must agree on everything designated an error
 - d. Two major sets of criteria:
 - i. Meaning (i.e., accuracy)
 - ii. Writing (i.e., mechanics)
 - e. Sample report to examinee
3. Credentials of examiners
 - a. ATA accredited in both directions (English→Spanish and Spanish→English)
 - b. Federally certified Spanish interpreter *mandatory*
 - c. M.A. in Spanish Translation *preferred*
4. Test Results to Date
5. Changes Being Considered in Grading Process
 - a. Add "Invented Words" to meaning section with weight of 2
 - b. Rename "Writing" section "Mechanics"
 - c. Divide "Spelling" in mechanics section into two categories: Major (i.e., change meaning) weighted at 1 and Minor (i.e., does not change meaning) weighted at .5
 - d. Divide "Grammar" in mechanics section into two categories: Major, weighted at 2, and Minor, weighted at 1
 - e. Add "Punctuation" to mechanics section with weight of .5
 - f. Add "Translator's Notes" to mechanics section with weight of 1
6. "Framework for Standard Error Marking" for the Accreditation Exams of the American Translators Association