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LICENCIADO EN LENGUAS MODERNAS

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DEDICATION

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Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Introduction

As beginner translators, most of the graduate students from the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla who are interested in doing a successful living as professional translators seem to be unable to assure the fulfilling of the requirements that it demands. In fact, the path to achieving it is long but necessary to acquire the experience and the training from those who are experts in this field. In order to get this dream, the certification in translation seems to be a plus for the translator's curriculum but there are several opinions about it. Some expert translators do not necessarily recommend it. For instance, Clint (2016) points out that "a certification does not test your ability to run a successful business" (how to become a certified translator, 2016, para. 23). In addition, he also states: "The biggest factor in getting and keeping work is the quality of work you do, the way you treat your clients, and your overall professionalism" (ibid, para. 21). The interesting point, which becomes the problem of this study, is that most translation companies and expert translators warrant their translation services with certified translations or certified translators. According to Yang (2015), "certification is a signal of professionalism that is easily communicated and recognized by the public" (p. 8). Taking into account these points of view, it seems to be confusing and complex to understand the importance of acquiring a certification for an inexperienced translator.

1.2 Significance of the study

Mexican society context is changing giving more emphasis to the domain of the English language. According to Smith, B. (2015) The Minister of Public Education Aurelio Nuño Mayer declared that "English is the language through which we can all communicate; it is a tool and cornerstone for professional development and to modernize" (thepienews.com, para.3). This declaration makes people aware about the English language in the Mexican

society, which currently is becoming more important than in past decades. The official page of the American Translator Association (ATA) states the following message:

"Languages, specialties, and technology grow and evolve quickly in a global society, making continuing education as necessary for translators and interpreters as it is for doctors, lawyers, and accountants. To support its members in their pursuit of knowledge." (atanet.org, 2017, para.1)

Therefore, if the importance of learning English is growing, the importance of continuing the education is growing as well. Then, a translator who wants to be successful in the translation field does not have a choice; he needs the training to expand his knowledge and determine by himself whether a certification will be useful for his work. Hence, this thesis will present a comparison of the results of an Unam's survey related to the interest that translators have about the amount of certified translators and the results of this research questionnaire. As a matter of fact, novice translators can check the current situation and interest of translators about the role that the certifications in the translation field have in Mexico.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this research is threefold. firstly, to compare and analyze the results of two questions of a survey called Encuesta del perfil del traductor profesional en México (Survey of the profile of the professional translator in Mexico), conducted by the departamento de traducción e interpretación (DTI) (2014) from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), with the results of a question from a questionnaire designed by the author of this research that was applied in 2015 to a small group of Mexican translators, in order to know their opinions about the importance that a certification in translation has for them in the translators' profile. Secondly, To compare the amount of certified translators and non-certified translators between the mentioned instruments so that it be possible to set a percentage of certified translators in Mexico. Finally, under the point of view of the 20 translators contacted for the researcher of this project, to set the reasons of the lack of certified translators in Mexico.

1.4 The context of the research

Mexico is situated to the south of the United States, a nation which at present time is considered powerful for the rest of the countries. This is a reason to justify the English learning. Nowadays, there are English Professionals working throughout the country as Interpreters, translators and English teachers. Some of them who are involved with translation matters form part of this research. In the other side, The Languages Faculty of the Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla is rich of people interested in learning and mastering English as a second language. Students who form part of this community have the opportunity to interact with professionals in language teaching and translation. These is a reason why students from translation area are interested in knowing a little more about the culture and education of those who are their models. .

1.5 Background of the research

Students from the Faculty of Languages from The Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla from translation area are interested on being part of those professionals in translation and do their work in that field. It seems to be exciting to think on developing those abilities that will make an excellent translator. For this reason, at the end of the bachelor studies, a translator has the necessity of looking for training in translation.

A certification in translation seems to be a good element to add at the curriculum for a translator. In fact, having a paper that could tell others that a translator has the abilities to do his job would be perfect and would help to achieve personal goal related to his/her professional development. However, there are some differences among experimented translators' opinions where a certification can provide benefits in comparison with other ways of training in translation.

1.6 Research questions

This study sets the following research questions:

1. According to the mexican translators' experience in the field, which are their beliefs about the lack of certified translators in Mexico?

2. What are the differences shown between the UNAM's study and the autor's study regarded to the importance of certification in the translators professional development in Mexico?

The work done in this chapter states that the lack of experience and capacitating in a beginner translator is a problem to try to submerge in the translation field as a professional. Additionally, this chapter also sets that certification in translation is a popular tool that could be considered to get the credibility to work as a professional translator. For this reason, the certification in translation is studied through the experience of many Mexican translators. The information gathered in chapter two will enrich the content of this study.

Chapter II

Literature review

2.0 Introduction

As previously mentioned in Chapter 1, this research aims to determine the importance of certification in translation for Mexican translators. Because the amount of information that a translator can find about the topic is limited. It is necessary to have specific objectives to find adequate information, for this reason, this chapter presents a review of essential information about main concepts used in this thesis in order to help the reader to understand them. Besides, within this literature review some of the certifications that there exist within the translation field in Mexico are presented as well as their process for obtaining them.

2.1 Certification in translation

Certifications in translation are different from one city to another because the interests vary from place to place. According to the *College of Advanced and Professional Studies* of University of Massachusetts Boston (UMB), a certification in translation is a paper that communicates the translator's abilities to use specific dictionaries and reference materials, who additionally, have been successfully tested thus that translator's capacity to explore the history, theory, and practice of oral and written translation has been demonstrated (College of Advancing and Professional Studies, 2017). In addition, the UMB mentions that "the certificate in Spanish/English Translation is designed to meet the increasing local, national and international demand for professionals, educators, and students interested in meeting the challenges of modern multicultural, multilingual societies."(umb.edu, 2017, para 1). It seems that this information helps us to have a wide comprehension about considered politics of our country concerning to certification in translation. In other words, the certification process in Mexico will vary among the states in order to meet the client's expectations because of the city politics and necessities.

Furthermore, Hlavac (2013) defines certification as "a benchmark term that informs providers and consumers of T&I services that an individual has demonstrated to an authorized and specialist body a required level of ability and performance" (trans-into.org,

2013, page 57). According to Hlavac (2013), T&I means Translator and Interpreter, he says that a certification in translation tells people that the owner has the legal permission and the capacity to transfer the original message from one language to another one. In short, a certification in translation can be defined as a paper that proves that the owner has been tested by an official instance and possesses the written abilities to grant quality in a translation.

2.1.1 Types of Certifications in translation

Regards to information mentioned above, when a translator is interested on a certification it is necessary to think about the city or country, politics, and the reasons of having certain certification. In Mexico there are three valid types of certification in Translation a certification as Sworn translator, as a certified translator, and a certified PRO translator. These three types of certifications in translation are presented in a deeper way.

2.1.1.1 Certification as Sworn Translator (Perito Traductor)

The first certification presented in this document is as *Sworn Translator*. According to the boletín CELE (2014), in Mexico the only translators who serve as an assistant to justice are certified and are accredited as expert/sworn translators by the state court (Supreme Court of Justice), the Judicial Council (The State Council of the Judiciary), the PGR, and specialized prosecutors. However, those instances are not national certification centers with both, the legal and institutional support. For example, according to the Official Journal of the Federation (2016), a translator who wants to work before the Bodies of the Judicial Power of the Federation, needs to present the requirements and to finish all asked processes to get a certification (Diario Oficial de la Federación, 2016). During the process to obtain this certification, the Supreme Court of Justice, The State Council of the Judiciary, the PGR, and specialized prosecutors ask, mainly, for official documents that endorse the specific training to perform professionally as a translator but it does not mention an evaluation test (para. 49). It means that translators' abilities are not directly evaluated; although, the translators need to renew their certification each year once they are selected, they obtain the legal power to certify translations. In the further section of this chapter, specific requirements to obtain this certification are mentioned.

2.1.1.2 ATA Certified translator.

The second certification presented in as a certified translator obtained through ATA. This type of certification is provided by the American Translator Association (ATA). After that the translator has passed an evaluation process (2017, para1), the ATA grants to the translator a credential and a seal which have validity in Mexico but according to the mexican politics, it does not have validity to work as auxiliar for the state courts, the Judicial Council, the PGR, and specialized prosecutors. Nevertheless, a certified translator by this association could work in some other sectors and cover a large number of texts such as novels, essays, informative or scientific works, contracts, instruction manuals of various devices, web pages, advertising material, financial reports, among others. It should be noted that if the clients agree, non-certified translators could work with some of those texts, However, according to ATA (2017) a certification grants you a number of benefits. Following are listed some of them:

- “It provides a distinction among translators
- It opens doors to career advancement and higher compensation
- It designates a certification status (CT)
- It lets the translator appear in the ATA's Directory of Certified Translators and Interpreters and standing out from the competition” (para. 6-8).

Thus, the information above is a list of benefits given to certified translators by ATA. In short, these is the explanation of what a certified translator is and their benefits. In the further section, PRO certification is presented.

2.1.1.3 Certified PRO certification for Translators

The third kind of certification presented in this research is the PRO certification. This type of certification grants to the translators a title and seal. In addition, the translator becomes part of a community of professional and qualified translators (Proz.com para. 2). This certification is valid for Mexico but not for state purposes as The Supreme Court of Justice, the Judicial Council, the PGR, and specialized prosecutors unless the translators possess a certification from those institutions. Since Proz.com mission is to gather just qualified

translators, in order to belong to Proz community, the translator must possess a certification or credential from one institution already named (The Supreme Court of Justice, the Judicial Council, the PGR, and specialized prosecutors). Therefore, a PRO Certified translator who has been certified by, specifically, the Supreme Court is qualified to work as a sworn translator.

In addition, *ProZ.com* ensures that a PRO certification is easier and cheaper to acquire than the ATA certification. Furthermore, it also offers several benefits such as:

- The access to a network of all screened professionals
- The recognition of being a special search option in the directory of freelance translators and interpreters
- The distinction Certified PRO seal which can be used in personal websites, email signatures, blogs, etc.
- The exclusivity to access to a personal workspace and to a Certified PRO Network private forum
- The special discount on selected ProZ.com training sessions and events
- The exclusivity to access to a personal workspace and private forum
- The special discount on PRO sessions and events
- The opportunity to share glossaries with other members of the network (para. 36)

Even though, it seems to be the same, when comparing the PRO certification with ATA certification process, they are different. The former one (PRO certification) is a worldwide company that just certified translators who have been certified by other institutions previously such as the ATA, Supreme Court of Justice etc. Meanwhile, the last one certify translators mainly under a test examination, it is really important to say that the ATA certification exam is challenging since “the current overall pass rate is below 20%” (American Translators Association, 2017 para. 1).

Now that these three types of accepted certifications in the mexican context of translators are presented, in the further section of the literature review are presented the processes to obtain the already mention certifications.

2.1.2 Process to obtain a certification in translation.

The process to obtain a certification takes time and money and it varies from each organization to another. In general, most of the official organizations demand from the translator to be tested and provide official evidence of translation studies. The following information is organized according to the process and requirements of each institution. The similarities section include just those certifications given by the government. Later, ATA and the Proz.com certifications processes are described separately to state some the differences between them.

2.1.2.1 Similarities

As it was mentioned before, each state determines the institution and the process to be certified as a sworn translator. Due to the Supreme Court of Justice, the State Council of the Judiciary, the PGR and Specialized prosecutors are governmental institutions, they have in common most of the requirements to apply for being a sworn translator. In The Official Journal of the Federation (2016), there was published an announcement that widely points the requirements and the step process. Hence, all translators who were interested in participating in the selection process to act as experts to the organs of the Judicial power of the federation corresponding to the year 2017 followed the next bases:

1. Be qualified to formulate opinions in the sciences, techniques, arts and crafts, perform interpretations or translations, necessary for the assistance of the Justice administration (para. 6).
2. Be able to issue digital tax receipts online in "PDF" and "XML" format authorized by the current tax legislation. (para. 7)
3. Participate as an expert in sciences, techniques, arts and crafts, or necessary studies for the assistance of federal judges and magistrates. The experts in Environmental, Economy, Finance, Medicine (Istanbul Protocol), Legal Metrology, Psychology (Istanbul Protocol), Petrochemical, Sociology, Telecommunications, Translation and interpretation in indigenous languages had special invitation because of the increase in requests for professionals in specialties specified by the jurisdictional bodies, (para. 10 & 11)
4. Provide personal data in order to follow the Article 10 of General Agreement 16/2011 of the Plenary of the Council of the Federal Judicature. (para, 13)
5. Present the registration applications in the corresponding formats (para.14)

6. Present the copy certified documents issued by a Notary Public when the process required it. (para. 15)
7. Present apostilled documents when they were issued by foreign authorities. (para. 16)

These requirements mentioned above are presented again, in other words, in in a short and clearer way just to have a complete idea about them:

1. To present the application in the new income format, a photograph of recent date, and curricular information.
2. To present the document that certifies the knowledge related to the respective subject in case of no title and personal certificate with patent effects are exhibited.
3. To present a document that proves a minimum of three years of professional practice.
4. Not having been convicted for an intentional crime
5. Not being active in the public service
6. To present a proof of domicile expedited no more of two months before the date of the application.
7. To present a copy of the Tax Identification Card.

According to the Official diary of the Federation (2016), once the translator had met all the requirements, it is possible to determine how is the certification process. Therefore it is said that the applications are received in the Official Office of the Judiciary Council Federal during two weeks according to the specified date. After the reception of documents the General Directorate of Legal Affairs carry out the review and the analysis of the documentation. Once the files of the applicants have been reviewed and analyzed, the preliminary list, with the names of the applicants, will be enlisted to be approved by the Judicial Career Commission. The preliminary list will be published two months later “on the boards of the buildings of the jurisdictional bodies, as well as in two newspapers of national or local circulation, as appropriate, and on the Council's Internet portal www.cjf.gob.mx” (para. 49-57). Additionally, Hlavac (2013) mentions in his research that a translators needs to fulfill the following requirements to be certified as sworn translator in Mexico:

- “1. A degree (or relevant associated knowledge),
2. Five years’ experience,
3. No criminal record.

4. To pass a text examination.” (p.50)

It seems to be a shorter resume of the information previously mentioned, however it would be interesting to mention some differences in comparison with The ATA and The Pro Certification which are mentioned in the further section of this literature review.

2.1.2.2 Differences

Thinking about the similarities of the governmental institutions, all the process to obtain the ATA certification is different. Firstly, it requires to present an exam. According to the ATA webpage (2017) the purpose of this exam is to assess the translator's ability to grant quality in a translation. The certification exam is “a three-hour proctored, open book test comprised of three text passages. Two out of the three passages must be translated” (para. 1). After the exam, two or more certification program graders review the exam translations, “it takes at least fifteen weeks” (para. 10). Once the translator has passed the exam, it is possible to download the ATA certified translator seal and begin using the “Certified Translator (CT) designation” (para. 11). In the other hand, The certified PRO company has another requirements to provide a certification. The selection process is carried out in accordance to the guidelines set forth in the EN 15038 (qualitystandard.bs.en-15038.com/) “the standard for quality in translation” (para. 1). There, it is pointed out that any translation service under EN-15038 which must include as a minimum, “translation and review” (para. 5). Moreover, the translator must demonstrate the professional competences specified in the standard by meeting at least one of three requirements:

- “Advanced translation studies (recognised qualification)
- Equivalent qualification in another specialisation plus a minimum of two years documented experience in translation.
- At least five years of documented professional experience in translation” (para. 9)

According to the PROZ selection (2017) it also includes verification of credentials such as the ATA (para.1). In addition, Translators shall have at least the following competences:

- "Translating competence
- Linguistic and textual competence in the source language and the target language
- Research competence, information acquisition and processing

- Cultural competence
- Technical competence" (para. 5)

Additionally, it is important to state that the above competences must be acquired through:

- "formal higher education in translation (recognised degree);
- equivalent qualification in any other subject plus a minimum of two years of documented experience in translating;
- at least five years of documented professional experience in translating" (para 6)

The next requirement is business reliability which is assessed through a peer and client review (para. 2). Finally, the last requirement, is "good citizenship" which refers to the obedience to the terms and conditions set in the Proz.com guidelines (para. 3). Admittedly to get a certification in translation seems to be complicated. However, It also seems to be achievable. Once the translator has been concluded their studies in a bachelor degree and start the process of getting into the translation field, a great part of the requisites would be completed as time goes on so that, it is upon the translator's goals and his determination to continue until the certification.

2.1.3 Official organizations that certify translators

Undoubtedly, it is impossible to conclude the official instances that certifies translators without mention them. In this section, it will be given just essential information to support the purpose of the thesis. A brief descriptions of the Judicial Council, the Mexican Organization of Translators, the State Council of the Judiciary, the American Translators Association and The ProZ.com Certified PRO Network are stated.

- *The Judicial Council (The State Council of the Judiciary), Supreme court of Justice, the PGR, and specialized prosecutors.* The boletin Cele (2014) states that theses organizations are the institutions that certified and accredited as "expert sworn translators in Mexico" (para. 12). Moreover, Hlavac (2013) points out that "legal translations to be used in Mexican institutions must be carried out by sworn translators (peritos traductores) certified by the Supreme Court of Justice" (page 50).
- *The Mexican Organization of Translators (OMT).* According to Hlavac (2013) the OMT offers a certification for translators with "at least three

years of experience” to hold a translation degree (page. 50). However, is necessary to point that this certification is the ATA certification applied in the OMT facilities. In addition is that important to this paper is not an official (governmental) certification, so that a translator cannot be classified as a sworn translator.

- *The State Council of the Judiciary.* Each state in Mexico has the power to certify their translators. Clint (2016) sets that the Mexican government certifies translators and just accepts their translated documents as the valid ones. In Hlavac’s research, (2013) he supports the previous information with these words "In some states, the State Council of the Judiciary requires that sworn translators be members of the Mexican Organisation of Translators” (page. 50). Therefore, The State Council of the Judiciary of each state has both, their own sworn translators and the right to accept or not the certified translations coming from other states.
- *The American Translators Association.* The ATA (2017) is an international association that offer credential for translators. Due to the venue of this company is situated in the United States, every two or three years, The Mexican Translator Organization is the venue to carry out this examination.
- *The ProZ.com Certified PRO Network.* The ProZ.com is an initiative of the ProZ.com community, created with the purpose of identifying and gathering qualified translators in various language pairs, to collaborate in the creation of an environment of professionals. Those accepted into the ProZ network earn the ProZ.com Certified PRO title and seal, which may optionally be displayed in profile pages.

In short, this section of Chapter 2 provided information related to five official organizations that certify translators, all of them are possible organizations where Mexican translators can apply for a certification or an official credential of professional translator. In the other hand, as in the case of the ATA, it is possible to get a membership. In fact; the applicant should belong to the ATA company before looking for its certification. Then, for the case of just

belonging to this organization it grants the translator constant capacitation, staying up to date with translation matters, being in contact with professional translators and finding opportunities of work.

2.2 Translators

A clear definition of translator is taken from the words of Buffagni (2011) who states that a translator “is someone who gives the source-language text a wider scope, making it to accessible to a new audience” (pag 21). Obviously, for the purposes of these thesis it is important to classify them in order to understand their role in the society as professionals in the translation field. Consequently the next information defines each type of translators as they are known in Mexico.

2.2.1 A certified translator

A certified translator could be defined as a translator who has passed the requisite certification exam administered by a professional organization. Lamb (2015) said:

“A concise definition of a certified translator or interpreter came from Pat Newman, a past president of ATA and long-time translation manager for a science and engineering laboratory, 'One whose interpretation or translation competence has been tested and approved by a professional association or government body".(para. 4).

In other words, the translator has shown the abilities he possesses for carrying out the translation work successfully.

2.2.2 A freelance translator

Before stating a definition of this two words concept, perhaps it should be understood the meaning of the term freelance as an only word. In order to do so, the English oxford living dictionary (2017) defines this word as an adjective that refers to: "a self-employed person hired to work for different companies on particular assignments" (para. 1). Then, freelancer or freelance worker is a term commonly used for a person who is self-employed. The previous information makes also possible to have an understandable idea of what the term freelance translator means. It could be defined as a translator that work from home in some

cases represented by a company or agency and possess the liberty to accept or reject translation work.

2.2.3 A sworn translator

A publication found from a translation agency DBF (DataBase File) communicative (2015) defines sworn translator as:

“Strictly speaking, it is the translator who is sworn, not the translation. Subject to certain requirements in terms of education and experience, a translator can take an oath before a court of law, whereupon the translations he or she produces are accepted as a full and faithful rendering of the original. The translator must 'certify' the translation by attaching it to the original and adding a formal declaration that he or she believes the translation to be complete and correct.” (para. 1)

In other words, a sworn translator is the one who has followed the selection process indicated by the state and has successfully proved their knowledge and experience according to the institutional guidelines to be accepted as an auxiliary to the governmental institutions' matters. The previous information makes possible to set a difference among certified translators. Even though a sworn translator can be called a certified translator by the government, the term is different from those coming from other institutions or companies such as the certified translators from the American Translators Association.

2.3 Documents that only a certified translator can work with

In this section of the literature review a description of the documents that only a certified translator can work with is presented. According to the DBF communicative (2015) "Translations of documents relating to the civil registry (birth certificates, marriage certificates, etc. " (para. 3). will usually require the services of a sworn translator. Other documents that must be 'sworn' include (title) deeds, school certificates, degrees and diplomas, affidavits, witness statements and court rulings" (para. 3). In order to clarify what these documents are, these brief definitions are stated in the following paragraph.

According to the *National Paralegal College* (2018), the basic types of legal documents are Instrument, Pleading, Contract, Business and Trust documents.

Firstly, *Instrument Documents* are "those formal legal document that grants (or proves the grant) of a right. Examples: Deeds, Wills, Mortgages, etc" (para. 1). The Oxford Living dictionary (2017) defines them as follow:

- Deeds: "A legal document that is signed and delivered, especially one regarding the ownership of property or legal rights" (para. 4)
- Wills: "A legal document containing instructions as to what should be done with one's money and property after one's death" (para. 19)
- Mortgages: "A legal agreement by which a bank, building society, etc. lends money at interest in exchange for taking title of the debtor's property, with the condition that the conveyance of title becomes void upon the payment of the debt" (para 1).

Secondly, *Pleading Documents* are "formal statement by a party in the context of litigation." "Examples: complaints," (para. 2). The Free Dictionary (2017) defines complaints as follow:

- Complaint: "The Pleading that initiates a civil action; in Criminal Law, the document that sets forth the basis upon which a person is to be charged with an offense." (para. 2)

Thirdly, *Contract Documents* refer to written agreements; In fact, it is mention that "any written agreement can fall under this heading" (para.4). The findlaw company (2018) provide some examples:

- Real estate sales;
- Agreements to pay someone else's debts;
- Contracts that take longer than one year to complete;
- Real estate leases for longer than one year;
- Contracts for over a certain amount of money (depending on the state);
- Contracts that will last longer than the life of the party performing the contract; and
- A transfer of property at the death of the party performing the contract (para. 3)

Fortly, *Business Documents*, According to the National Paralegal College (2018) this are some examples:

- "Article of incorporation

- bylaws
- partnership agreements” (para. 6)

Fifty, *Trust Documents* are defined as those that “Establishes an agreement whereby the trustee agrees to hold property for the beneficiary (para. 8) The findlaw company (2018) sets that there are two categories and they are:

- Testamentary trusts which refer to “a testamentary trust transfers property into the trust only after the death of the grantor” (para. 5).
- Living trusts, it refers to that benefit that “starts during the life of the grantor, but may be designed to continue after his or her death”...” It is sometimes called an "inter vivos" trust” (para 7).

In short, legal documents are those expedited from a governmental institution. In addition to those already mentioned, the death certificate, passport, visa, testament, contracts, military cards, driver's license and Checks and promissory notes are part of those list of legal documents. Even though it seems to be easily understood what is referred when someone talks about legal documents it is better understood when they are classified.

2.3.1 Employments for non certified translators

As it had been said before, non-certified translators can translate many types of documents such as informative texts, web pages, advertising material, etc. Therefore, they can work for several companies which services do not required certified translations. In fact, there are also many places to work as a non-certified translator. However in most cases, the experience is so important. For instance, in Puebla, there exist the company of Traductores Asociados (TA, 2011). It does not mention that all the translators, who are working there, are certified but they just hire experienced translators.

In this section of the literature review chapter, a few online companies are going to be listed in order to show some alternatives for translators who are in the submerging process in the translation field in the Mexican context: According to Castillo (2014) in the following companies a translator can work from his home (para. 1).

a) *Andovar*. It is a worldwide company that is always looking for editor freelance translators. In it, it is required some translation experience and prove the translation abilities through a test. (para. 3)

b) *Worldlingo*. This company looks for translators to work from their houses. It requires from two to five years of experience and accept translators from all the world. (para. 8)

c) *Gengo*. it is a worldwide company open to all over the world. The main requirement is to approve a test. It pays via Paypal or Skrill. (para. 9)

The information provided above is an example of places where a translator can apply to work in. It is important that the translator considers all possible options and trust in their own capacity. As inexperienced translator, to work with a sworn translator as his assistant in the translations work, would let the inexperienced translator to acquire knowledge, experience, and develop the required abilities to work independently.

Chapter III

Methodology

3.0 Introduction

In the previous chapter, it was presented a review of information in order to lead readers to the author's intentions concerning the topic of this thesis. This chapter informs the reader about the method and the methodology of the research. In it is also described the Mexican context of translators and the way the participants were contacted. Furthermore, the overall design research is clearly explained as well as the instrument and the data collection. In addition, in it is presented the data analysis attaching to it a list of the questions and the general results of each question.

3.1 Methodology

First, According to Kothari (2004) a research is "a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic." (p. 1). Second, Kothari (2004) also defines the research method as "all those methods/techniques that are used for conduction of research." (p. 7). At this point, it is important to define the known methods in the scientific research. According to Kothari, the qualitative method "is concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions and behaviour." (p. 5). In the other hand, the quantitative method is defined as "the measurement of quantity or amount. It is applicable to phenomena that can be expressed in terms of quantity..... it involves the generation of data in quantitative form which can be subjected to rigorous quantitative analysis in a formal and rigid fashion" (p. 5). Specifically, the research method employed by this project is quantitative.

Finally, Research methodology is defined as a way to systematically solve the research problem. It may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically (Kothari, 2004, p. 8). In other words, research methodology could be defined as the steps that a researcher carefully has determined to follow. Due to "researcher has no control over the variables" (p. 3) and for this research is reported what has happened, according to Kothari the research methodology is descriptive.

3.2 Context

This quantitative research is made in Mexico. According to the boletín CELE (2014), in Mexico there are associations of translators at the state level that require institutional support, there is no certification center in the country that regulates the profession of translator in Mexico, there is ignorance of the profession in general due to the low number of degrees in translation, the only translators who serve as assistants to justice are certified and are accredited as expert translators by state courts, the Judicial Council, the PGR, and specialized prosecutors, the specialized translation is not subject to certification, there is no certification as such, there is no registry or register of certified translators. (para. 10-15). Talking about translators, in Puebla, there are some educational institutions oriented to languages studies and some of them include translation studies. Puebla regulates the translation profession just when translators provide services for governmental institutions. Besides, as it was mentioned by the boletín CELE (2014), the state courts, the Judicial Council, the PGR, and specialized prosecutors are the ones who certify translators in Puebla (para. 12).

3.3 Participants.

Table 3.1 General information of the participants

Number of Participant	Genre	Experience	Translation Degree	Certified Translator
P1	F	10	No	Yes
P2	F	29	No	No
P3	F	25	No	No
P4	F	20	No, but a diploma in translation	No
P5	M	17		Yes

P6	F	5	Yes	No
P7	M	16	No	Yes
P8	M	21	No, It is in languages	No
P9	F	12	No, but a diploma in languages	Yes
P10	M	15	No, but in translation studies	Yes
P11	M	10	Yes	No
P12	F	26	No	No
P13	F	15	No	Yes
P14	F	8	Yes	No
P15	M	18	No	Yes
P16	M	7	Yes	No
P17	M	15	No,	No
P18	F	36	No, but a diploma in translation	No
P19	F	24	No	No
P20	F	8	Yes	No

The subjects of this study are 20 translators. They are twelve females and eight males. The following amounts are describing how many participants fulfil certain descriptions: one translator out of twenty have between one and five years of experience, there are five translators who have from six to ten years of experience. There are four translators who have between eleven and fifteen years of experience, also four translators have from fifteen to twenty years of experience. From these twenty participants, there are three translators who have from twenty one to twenty five years of experience, besides two translators have from twenty six to thirty years of experience; additionally, one translator have from 36 to 40 years of experience.

Furthermore, by asking the participants about a translation degree five translators mentioned that they have a bachelor degree in translation, one translator has a bachelor degree in Languages, four of them have a diploma in translation, one translator have a bachelor degree in translation studies, and nine of them do not have formal education in translation.

3.4 Description of all overall design research

For the aims of this research, it was necessary to contact translators who were facing the experience of translation work. It was analyzed and concluded that *the proz.com* company was a good platform to find professional translators nationally. Due to the fact that it was possible to check the translators' profile, it was easy to contact and propose to proz.com translators to answer a questionnaire to help with the collection data process of this research. All participants were excited to participate and asked to be emailed with the questionnaire to provide their help. Once they accepted, the questionnaire was sent with a proposal of returning it in a period of fifteen days at the most. Even though, a few of them took the fifteen days but mostly they answered the questionnaire and sent it back during the same week.

3.5 Instrument

The instrument used in this research is a questionnaire. According to Burns (2010) a “questionnaire is the best option to gather information from several people” (p. 81). She states that questionnaires can "get three types of information: factual or demographic... behavioural... attitudinal" (p. 81). The questions designed for this questionnaire are eleven and they are a combination of open and closed questions. Besides, according to Burns (2010) open and closed questions collect factual information. (p. 81). The first seven questions have the intention to gather specific information to know better the translator's profile:

1. Are you working as a professional translator currently?
2. How long have you been working in the translation area?
3. Do you have a bachelor degree in the translation field?
4. Are you specialized in any specific translation area?
5. Do you know about the certification given by translation organizations (such as Proz, ATA, and government institutions) and its types?
6. Do you belong to any translation organization? If so, which one?
7. Are you certified?

The last four questions gather the translator's opinions about the topic related to this research:

8. Does “being certified” help you to improve your translation skills or your job opportunities?
9. If you are not certified, are you interested in getting a certification in the future?
10. In your opinion, what are the reasons of the lack of certified translators?
11. Is it important for a translator to have a certification? Why?

In addition, in order to support the results of this research and fulfill its purpose, the results of two questions of a survey conducted by the DTI (2014) from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) are going to be used as well. The questions are originally the following:

1. ¿En qué estado de la República Mexicana ejerces tu profesión?
2. ¿Cuál es tu sexo?
3. ¿Qué tipo de traductor eres?
4. ¿En qué sector trabajas?
5. ¿En qué rango de edad te encuentras?

6. ¿Qué estudios realizaste?
7. ¿Cuál es tu combinación lingüística de trabajo y en qué dirección?
8. ¿Cuál es el promedio de horas al día que traduces?
9. ¿Cuántas palabras promedio traduces al día?
10. ¿Cuántos años de experiencia llevas traduciendo?
11. ¿Tienes una especialización en traducción?
12. ¿Cuál es tu especialización?
13. ¿Usas las nuevas tecnologías de la traducción?
14. ¿Con qué tipo de herramientas de ayuda a la traducción sueles trabajar más?
15. ¿Qué herramientas TAC usas?
16. ¿Cuál es tu tarifa promedio por palabra fuente?
17. ¿Qué servicios son los más demandados por tus clientes?
18. ¿Qué nombramiento o certificación internacional posees?
19. ¿Te gustaría certificarte por parte de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)?
20. ¿Qué grado de confianza le darías a la UNAM para llevar a cabo este proceso?
21. ¿Por qué crees que sea necesario certificar a los traductores en México?
22. ¿Qué tipo de certificación te gustaría obtener?
23. ¿Qué beneficios crees que obtendrías si tuvieras una certificación nacional por parte de la UNAM?
24. ¿En qué modalidad te gustaría hacer la certificación?

However, since this research is done in English, the questions above are translated in English. Question number 18 and 19 is the one which will be used for the correlational methodology whose results are shown in the following chapter 4:

1. In what state of the Mexican Republic do you practice your profession?
2. What is your gender?
3. What kind of translator are you?
4. In what sector do you work?
5. In what age range are you?
6. What studies did you do?
7. What is your linguistic combination of work and in what direction?
8. What is the average number of hours per day that you translate?
9. How many average words do you translate per day?
10. How many years of experience have you been translating?
11. Do you have a specialization in translation?

12. What is your specialization?
13. Do you use the new technologies of translation?
14. With what kind of translation help tools do you usually work more?
15. What TAC tools do you use?
16. What is your average rate per source word?
17. What services are the most demanded by your customers?
18. What international appointment or certification do you have?
19. Would you like to be certified by the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)?
20. How confident would you give UNAM to carry out this process?
21. Why do you think it is necessary to certify translators in Mexico?
22. What type of certification would you like to obtain?
23. What benefits do you think you would get if you had a national certification from the UNAM?
24. In what modality would you like to do the certification?

3.6 Data Collection

First of all, the instrument was designed and revised several times until it was validated for reliability. Second, It was administered to 20 translators in two ways; seven of them were directly contacted by the researchers of this thesis and the other 13 were contacted by the PROZ company. All of them were asked to answer the mentioned questionnaire through email and to return it in a period of fifteen days the most. Afterwards, the answers obtained from the questionnaires were collected and the data was registered in Excel Program for processing the analysis. Each response was quantified and the results were drawn into graphs in order to be easy the interpretation of the main findings. These results are shown in Chapter IV. The conclusions are found in Chapter V.

3.7 Data Analysis

According to Kothari (2010) after data collection, the information needs to be "processed and analyzed in accordance with the outline laid down for the purpose at the time of developing the research plan." (p.121) Therefore, Kothari (2010) points out that the editing process "involves a careful scrutiny of the completed questionnaires..." (p. 122). In this research, and according to Khotary, the information is going to be analyzed by a combination of field editing and central editing technique. The information gathered is

going to be presented by using amounts in Questions 1,2,3,4,5, 6, 7, and 8. Besides some questions are classified and interpreted without altering the intention of the participant in order to go straight to the point (Questions 9,10, and 11). In the following part of this section the obtained data is shown by question:

1. Are you working as a professional translator currently?

20/20 translators answered yes

2. How long have you been working in the translation area?

1/20 Translators have from 1 to 5 years of experience

5/20 Translators have from 6 to 10 years of experience

4/20 Translators have from 11 to 15 years of experience

4/20 Translators have from 16 to 20 years of experience

3/20 Translators have from 21 to 25 years of experience

2/20 Translators have from 26 to 30 years of experience

0/20 Translators have from 31 to 35 years of experience

1/20 Translators have from 36 to 40 years of experience

3. Do you have a bachelor degree in the translation field?

5/20 translators have a bachelor degree in translation

1/20 translators have a bachelor degree Languages

4/20 translators have a diploma in translation

1/20 translators have a bachelor degree translation studies

9/20 translators do not have formal education in translation

4. Are you specialized in any specific translation area?

6/20 translators do not have a specialization

4/20 translators are specialized in Marketing

3/20 translators are specialized in the Legal area

1/20 translators is specialized in Administration

1/20 translators is specialized in Computing

1/20 translators is specialized in Human Resources

1/20 translators is specialized in Business

1/20 translators is specialized in Education

1/20 translators is specialized in Literature and Poetry

1/20 translators is specialized in Enterprise Level Translation services

5. Do you know about the certification given by translation organizations (such as Proz, ATA, and government institutions) and its types?

5/20 Translators say "No"
2/20 Translators say "very little"
13/20 Translators say "Yes"

6. Do you belong to any translation organization? If so, which one?

6/20 translators do not belong to any translator organization
1/20 translators belong to the ATA and OMT
2/20 translators belong to OMT and the Proz
10/20 translators belong to the Proz
1/20 translators belong to the Proz and CMIC (Colegio Mexicano de intérpretes de conferencia)

7. Are you certified?

7/20 Translators are certified
13/20 Translators are not certified

8. Does “being certified” help you to improve your translation skills or your job opportunities?

7/7 Certified translators say yes
13/20 Translators are not certified

9. Are you interested in getting a certification in the future?

12/20 Is interested
1/20 Maybe or it depends
7/20 no answer

10. In your opinion, what are the reasons of the lack of certified translators?

1/20 Translators state that the OMT and ATA credentials are not important in Mexico
3/20 Translators state that it is difficult to obtain it
2/20 Translators state that someone who has a high English level can offer translation services
4/20 Translators state that there is little information about the topic
4/20 Translators state that Certification is not required for many clients

- 3/20 Translators state that the translation in Mexico is not regulated
- 1/20 Translators state that there is ignorance about the profession
- 1/20 Translators state that there is not a legal recognition in Mexico
- 1/20 Translators state that it costs a high level translation skills, time, and money.

11. Is it important for a translator to have a certification?

20/20 Translators said "Yes"

In addition, a table was created to show the results of these questions keeping the words of the participants. This is an example of this table. As you can see in Table 3.1, the first column has the 11 questions of the questionnaire which are written down. In the second, third, fourth, and fifth columns there appear the participants including their gender and years of experience. Furthermore, the names are omitted to preserve the confidentiality and integrity of everyone. Therefore, there is a number of each participant after the letter P which means participant so that it is read P1, P2, etc. This is an example of the table, thus the reader can see the structure of it:

Table 3.1. Instrument to do data analysis

Questions	P1-(female) (Exp. 10 years)	P2-(female) (Exp.29)	P3-(female) (Exp. 25)	P4-(female) (Exp. 20)
1. Are you working as a professional translator currently?				
2. How long have you been working in the translation area?				

In order to show the complete opinions of the participants, there were created five tables with a content of 4 different participants each one. To more information see Appendix B.

3.8 Conclusion

This chapter intentions was to present all those elements that made possible the study of this thesis. All these elements let readers know as much as it was possible about the context, profile, background, and opinions of the participants related to the topic of this project. It attempted to provide detailed information in order to validate and give credibility to the mentioned research. The contribution of the participants and the results are going to be presented in the next chapters.

Chapter IV

Results

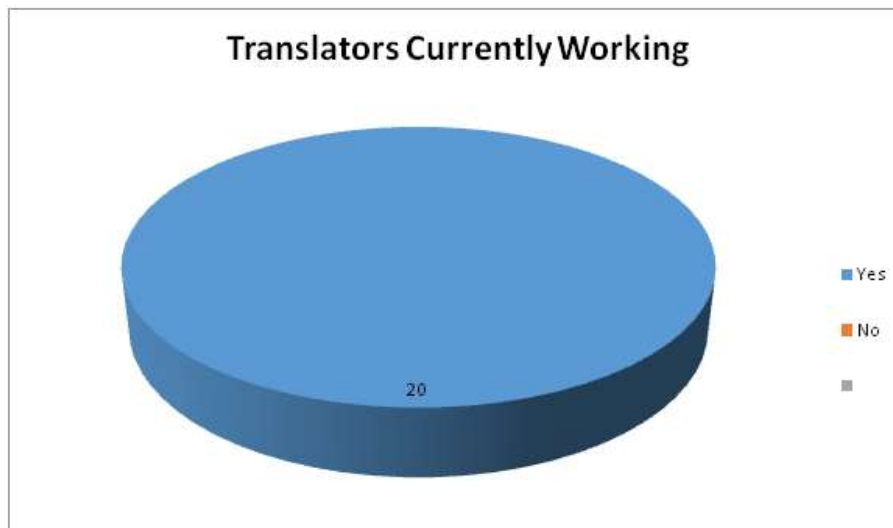
4.0 Introduction

In the previous chapter, it has been presented the methodology used for the development of this thesis. In this chapter, the author of this study presents the results obtained through the data analysis. Moreover, the results of two questions of the UNAM study and the author's study are going to be presented and compared to analyze the research questions set in the first chapter.

4.1 Questionnaire Obtained Results

As it was mentioned before, the questionnaire created by the author of this research contains eleven questions that have been presented in chapter three. In this part of the chapter, the graphs show the quantitative results of every question. In some cases, the words of some participants are included to highlight the translators points of view. Immediately, the reader could have a brief explanation of the most outstanding findings.

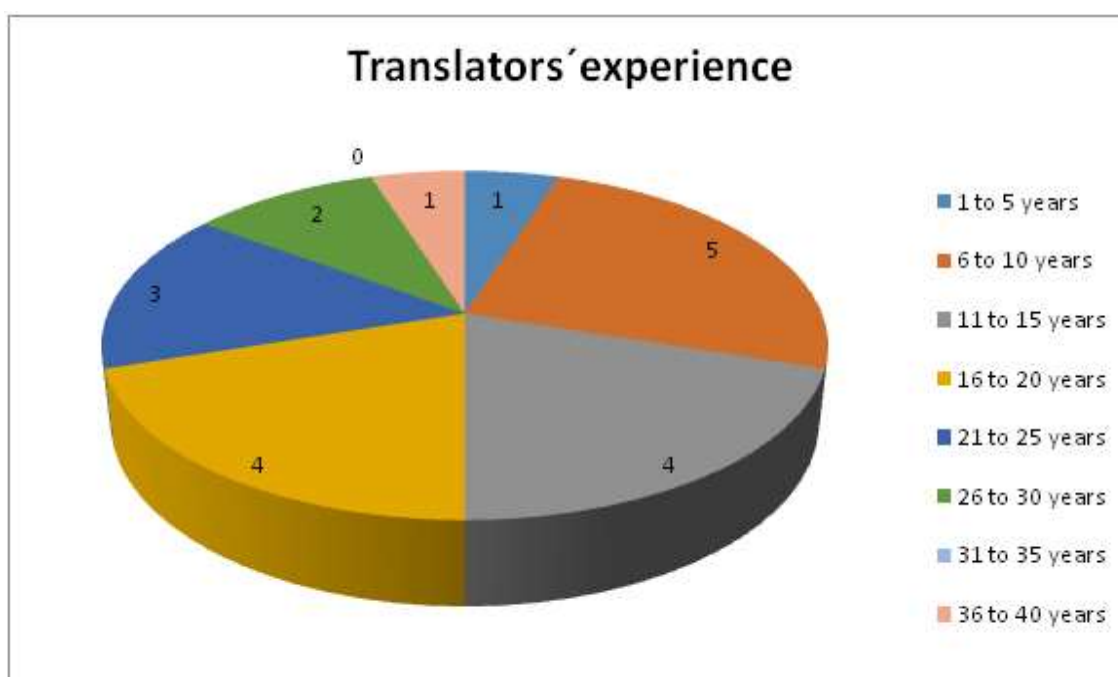
4.1.1 Results of Question 1



Graph 4.1 Are you working as a professional translator currently?

Even though one of the 20 translators affirms she is working as a part-time translator, she is currently working as the rest of the participants. The importance of this question comes when readers question the veracity of the participants' words. For this reason, It is important to mention that the translators who are currently competing for getting more clients, well-paid work and recognition among other translators are those whose opinions are set in this project. Therefore, the answers are more accurate and supports the results obtained in this research.

4.1.2 Results of Question 2

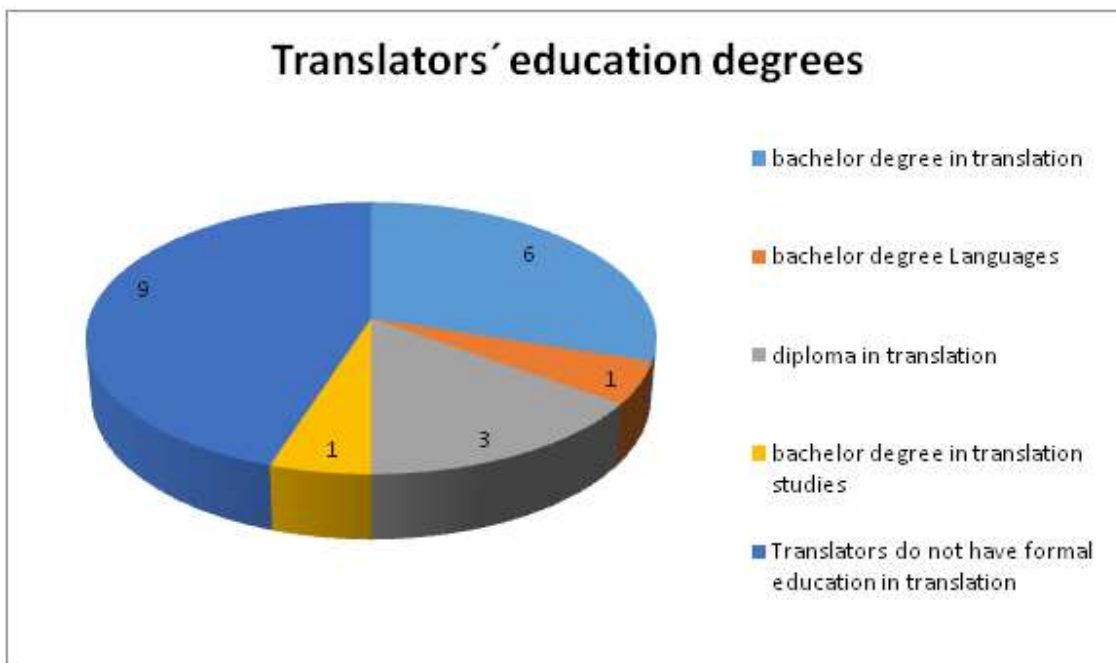


Graph 4.2 How long have you been working in the translation area?

To understand better the organization of the graph, it is important to notice that the information appears as clockwise. The information that appears at the right tells the range of experience of the participants. In Graph 4.2, participants from one to five years of experience are in blue color. Next, five participants are in the range that goes between six to ten years of experience and it is highlighted in orange color and so on. This information states that the 70 percent of the participants have more than 10 years of experience (see

Graph 4.2 from gray color to pink) and as in the previous question, this question's answer supports the credibility to the participants' opinions.

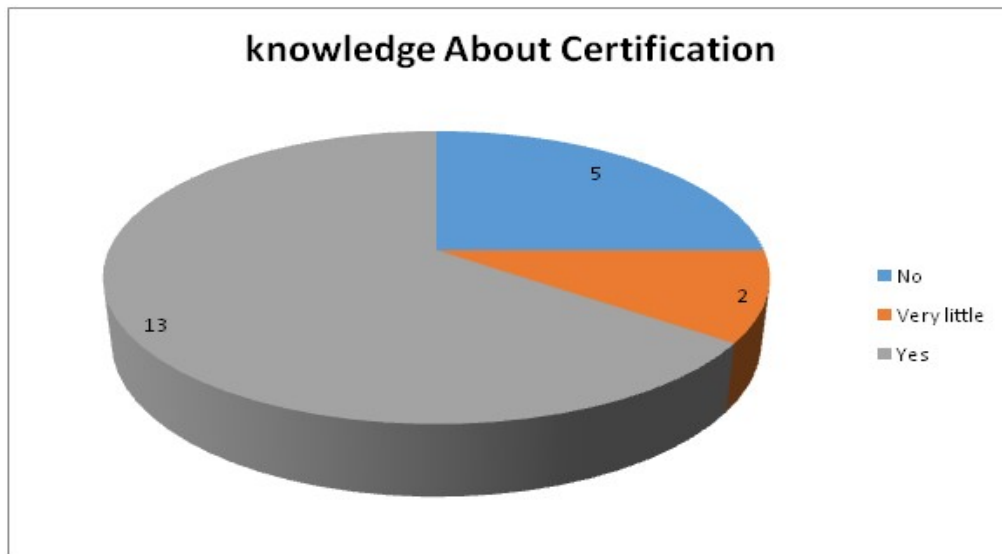
4.1.3 Results of Question 3



Graph 4.3 Do you have a bachelor degree in the translation field?

According to Graph 4.3, six translators have a degree as translators, one more has a bachelor degree in languages, three a diploma in translation and one has a bachelor degree in translation studies. Therefore, they represent a little more than 50 percent of the total of the translators. The 45 percent of the participants set that they do not have a degree in the translation area. This question helps the reader to know the translator profiles and comprehend in a better way their opinions.

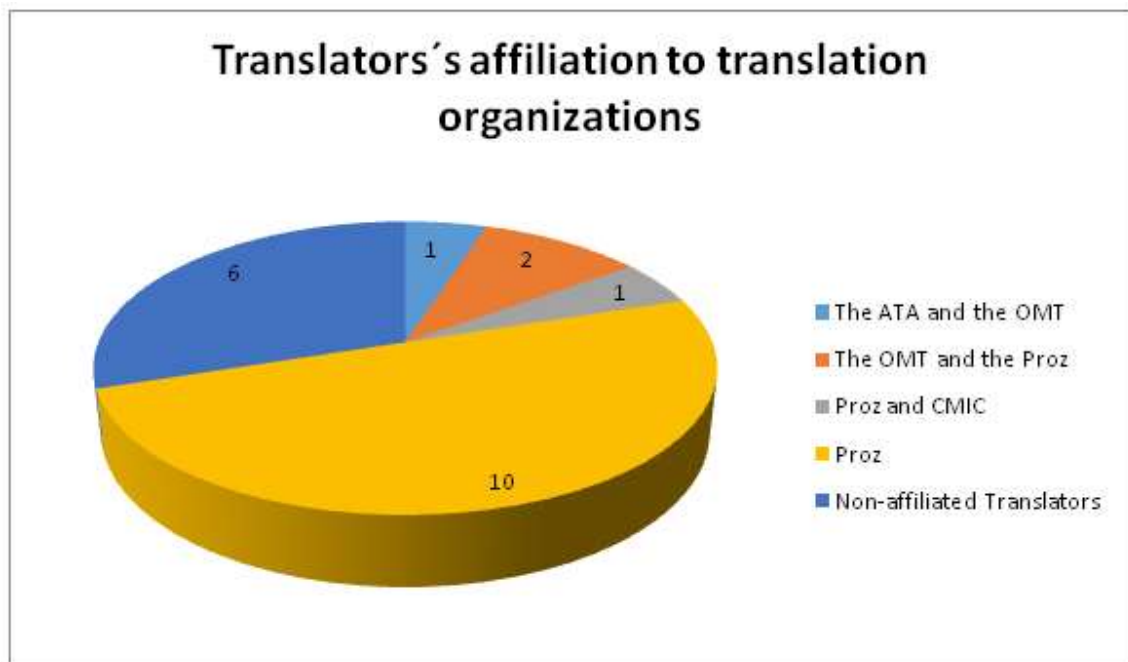
4.1.4 Results of Question 5



Graph 4.4 Do you know about the certification given by translation organizations (such as Proz, ATA, and government institutions) and its types?

This graph is easy to interpret. The interesting thing is that 15 translators know or at least have idea of what a certification in translation is. Due to most of the participants were contacted through the Proz platform, the results of this question are not a surprise. However, it is important to mention that the Proz platform lets you create an online profile without being certified translator. For instance, the participant number three sets that she does not know about certification in translation but in question number six she also sets that she have an affiliation to the Proz company and she also belongs to the CMIC. On the other hand, it is important to mention that four participants who have many years of experience do not have had the information regarding the topic.

4.1.5 Results of Question 6



Graph 4.5 Do you belong to any translation organization? If yes, which one?

Graph 4.5 illustrates that ten translators belong to the Proz company, one is affiliated to the ATA and OMT. Another translator belongs to the OMT and Proz company and one more is affiliated to the Proz and the CMIC. In other words, 70 percent of all participants have an affiliation with a translation association. 30 percent of the participants are not affiliated. The results of this question let the reader know that most translators look for an association to being updated or have contact with other translators. In fact, the reasons are many but the important thing here is that 13 of the 14 affiliated translators know about the certification in translation. On the other hand, analyzing four of the six non-affiliated translators do not know about certification in translation. Then, belonging to a translation Organization is an indicator of better communication among translators.

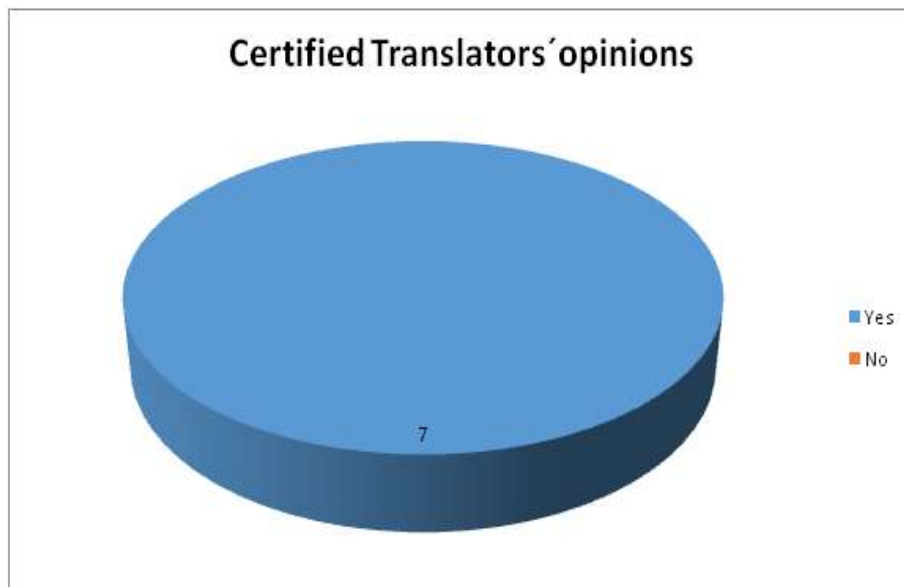
4.1.6 Results of Question 7



Graph 4.6 Are you certified?

The graph is so clear, 7 translators are certified. They represent the 35 percent of the total of the participants. It is important to mention that thirteen participants were taken from the Proz Platform. Therefore, they are experienced translators and their opinions are valuable to understand the importance of certification in translation has in Mexico. Even when the amount of this result is high, it does not represent the real situation of the whole country.

4.1.7 Results of Question 8



Graph 4.7 Does "being certified" help you to improve your translation skills or your job opportunities?

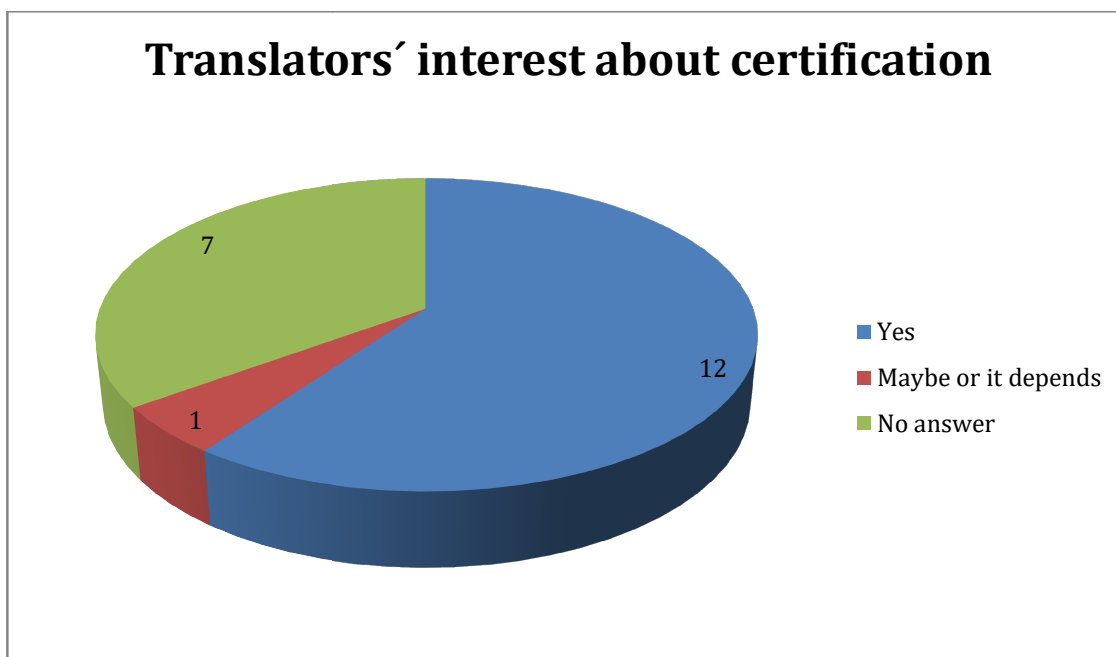
As it was mentioned in the previous chapter, the first seven questions help the reader to know the participants' profile. Question eight to eleven makes the reader know the participants' opinions related to the topic of this research. This is one of the questions that contribute to answer the first purpose of the research regarding the importance of certification. This graph is taking into account the seven certified translators so that the 100 percentage of them states that a certification has benefited them. According to the participants' words, they need to fulfill certain requirements to obtain a certification and it is what makes them improve their training skills. Some of their complete answers were:

***P1** "Yes, but you need to consider the different certification available. For example, if you are certified by the Mexican authorities, such as the Superior Court of Justice or the Mexican Council, your credentials do not guarantee your quality, because the certification process of the Mexican authorities is inadequate for many reasons. You can find "expert translators" authorized by those authorities whose translations are terribly incorrect. However, if you are certified by the ATA, the very certification process is a guarantee that you are a high-quality translator.*

Being certified by the ATA has opened new international doors for me. There are not many translators in Mexico certified by the ATA. I have had the opportunity to participate in very interesting projects thanks to that certification."

***P3** "Well, if being certified means belonging to CMIC, yes, it has since they offer many improvement courses and you have to comply with certain requirements to be a member."*

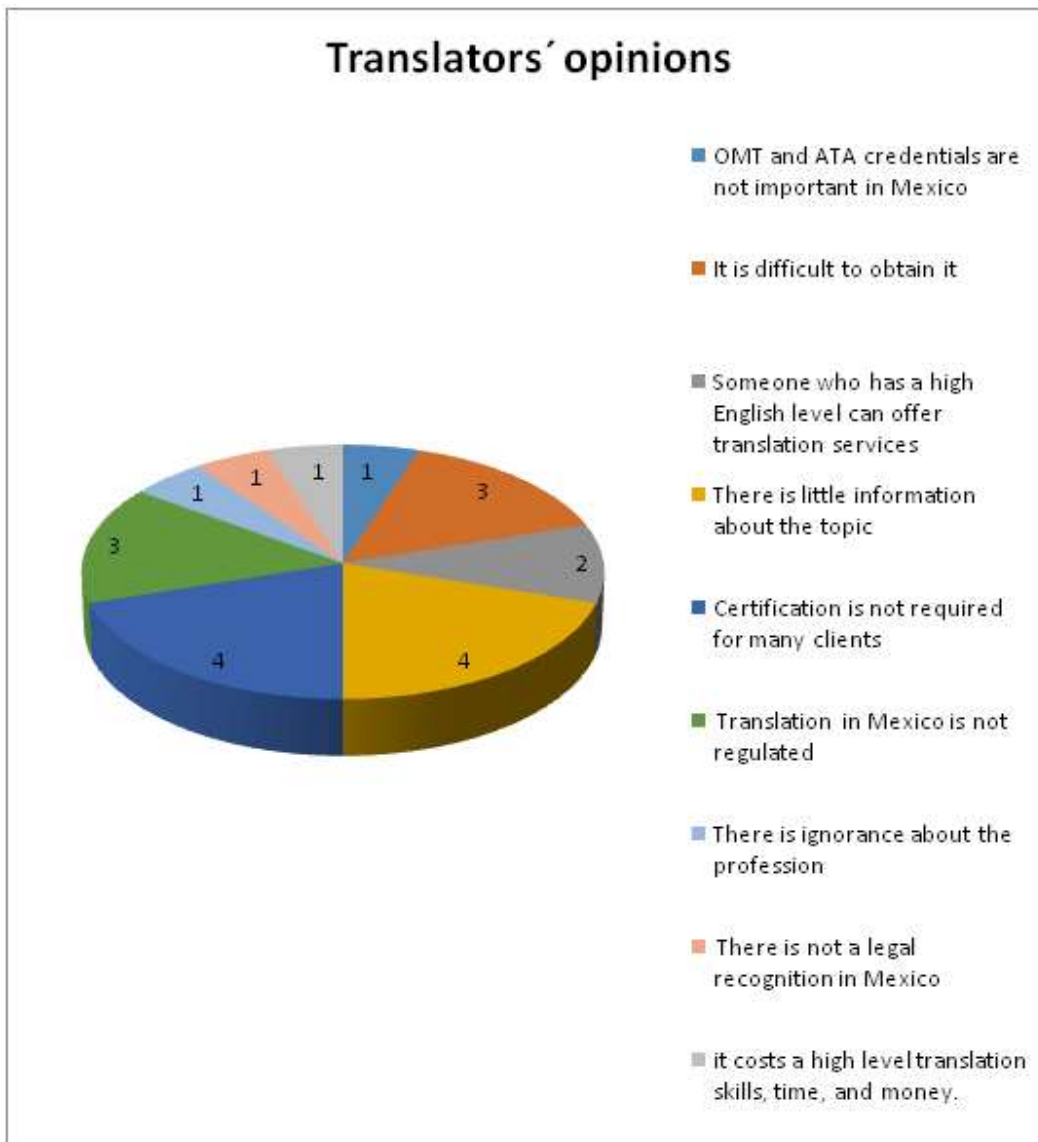
4.1.8 Results of Question 9



Graph 4.8 Are you are interested in getting a certification in future?

In this results, it important to mention that according to the analysis of participants' answers (see appendix B) the 12 translators interested in certification are non-certified translators, so that the 35% of the participants is certified and five % is not sure. According to the total amount of participants, the 60% of them are interested in knowing how a certification could help them. This question helps to answer the first purpose of this research regarding the importance of certification.

4.1.9 Results of Question 10



Graph 4.9 In your opinion, what are the reasons of the lack of certified translators?

During the time that the topic of this thesis was analyzed, it was deduced that the information was confusing for someone who wants to know if a certification in translation was important to the translator profile in Mexico. The questionable thing about these answers is for those who opined that certification was important, how could the researcher

of this topic have credibility of this words if there is a lack of certified translators in Mexico?

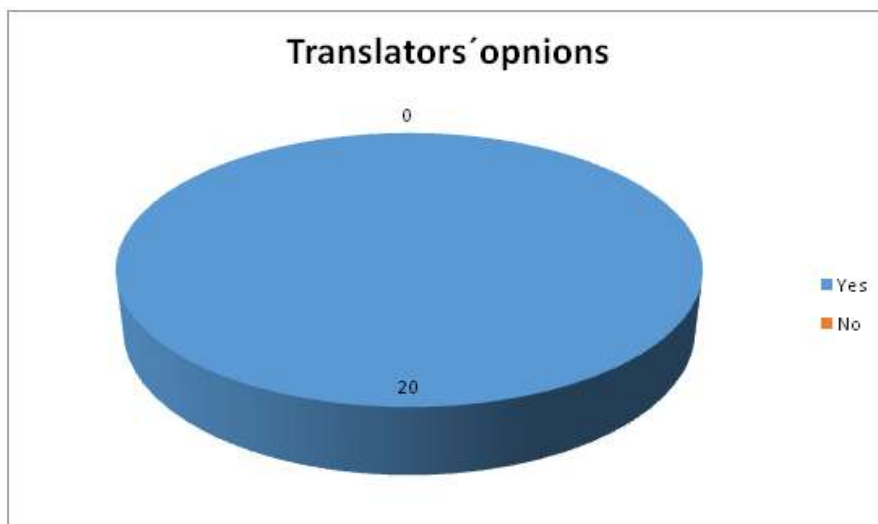
Lack of information about this topic and that there is not an official certification center in Mexico are some of the principal reasons. Therefore this question answers the third purpose of this research and answers the first research question as well, thus, it supports the importance of the complete work. The graph shows the general comments of the participants and the results tells that there is still too much to do in Mexico to regulate the profession and recognize it. Some of their complete answers were:

***P1** “As I mentioned before, there are many (too many I’d say) certified translators, but not certified by ATA or the OMT because those credentials are not very important IN MEXICO*

***P3.** Because everybody who speaks English at a fairly good level, thinks he is able to translate and they even think that by translating, they can practice their English. By the same token, companies are used to translators not having any certification”*

***P5** “Because most translators think that being bilingual is enough to be qualified as translator.”*

4.1.10 Results of Question 11



Graph 4.10 Is it important for a translator to have a Certification? Why?

The graph shows that all translators agree that certification is important. The most important information in this question are the reasons why they consider it. And these

results give importance to this research because it is difficult to catch this information without taking into account experienced translators' opinions. According to their experience, as certified and non-certified translators, they mention the ways they think a certification help or can help them. Therefore, the most outstanding opinions tell that a certification promotes qualified translations, support the translator's academic preparation, strength the translator professionally, formalize the labor market in Mexico. The development of the profession would increase and that the certified translator is highly competitive to enter to the translation industry. Some of their complete answers were:

P1 "Yes. like any other profession translators require to prove their translation skills by some sort of accreditation or certification."

P6 "Yes, It supports translator's academic preparation."

P13 "Yes. It would be a requisite to formalize the labor market in Mexico."

P17 "Yes, a certified translator is highly competitive to enter to the translation industry."

4.2 Answer of research Questions

In this section, the two research questions are presented. Due to the Unam's survey does not include a question that can contribute to answer of the first research question; it is answered according to the results of questionnaire made by the author of this research. Consequently, the results of the questions made by the author are going to be presented. Finally, to answer the second research question the results of the questions made by the author of this research are going to be compared with the UNAM's similar questions and analyzed together.

The correspondent graphs are included for a better interpretation of the same.

4.2.1 Research Question 1: According to the mexican translators' experience in the field, which are their beliefs about the lack of certified translators in Mexico?

To answer this research question in the questionnaire was included the following question: *In Your opinion, what are the reasons of the lack of certified translators?* The results are shown in the following table and illustrated in the Graph 4.9 which was already explained.

Table 4.11 Question 10 of the questionnaire

	10. In your opinion, what are the reasons of the lack of certified translators?
P1	As I mentioned before, there are many (too many I'd say) certified translators, but not certified by ATA or the OMT because those credentials are not very important IN MEXICO.
P2	Difficulty of obtaining in Mexico
P3	Because everybody who speaks English at a fairly good level, thinks he is able to translate and they even think that by translating, they can practice their English. By the same token, companies are used to translators not having any certification.
P4	There is not enough of information about it.
P5	Because most translators think that being bilingual is enough to be qualified as translator.
P6	The Mexican labor market does not required it
P7	Translators know very little about certifications
P8	There is little information about the topic
P9	I think, it's due to the ignorance about the profession.
P10	Well, It's difficult for translators in Mexico due to the lack of translation institutions.
P11	There is very little information about it.
P12	It's because in Mexico translation is not regulated so every person who speaks English is free to offer translation services
P13	lack of legal recognition in Mexico

P 14	It's not a requirement for translators in Mexico.
P15	Well, a certification demands a high level of preparation and just experienced and professional translators have it.
P16	Because you do not need a certification to prove your professionalism as translator.
P17	Because the translator must have a high level of translation skills. In addition, a certification costs time and money.
P18	It's difficult to obtain it.
P19	Translators can work without a certification
P20	Most clients do not require it

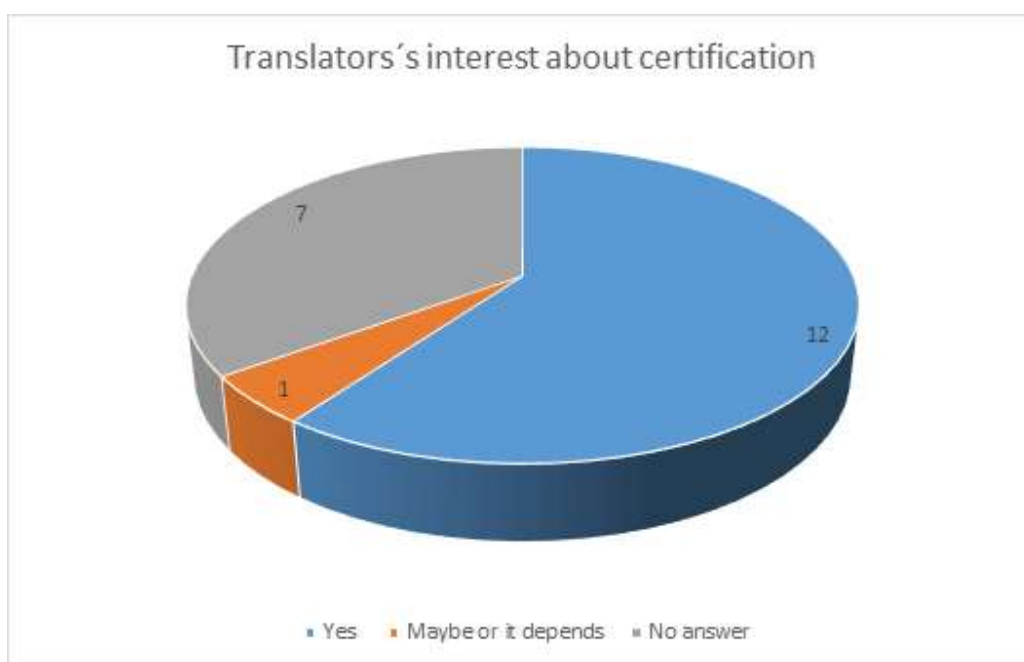
4.2.2 Research Question 2: What are the differences shown between the UNAM's study and the author's study regarded to the importance of certification in the translators professional development in Mexico?

To determine the importance that translators give to certifications, it is significant to know their interest about it. Therefore, the second question that is presented here is the question number 9 of the research's study and it is supported by the question 19 of the UNAM's study. Below is presented all the information gathered from the participants of both studies. Author's question is: *Are you are interested in getting a certification in future?*

Table 4.12 Question 9 of the author's questionnaire

Participants	1. Are you are interested in getting a certification in the future?
12	yes
1	Maybe or it depends
7	no answer

Below the graph shows the same results in a quantitative form.



Graph 4.8 Are you are interested in getting a certification in future?

Table 4.12 shows that 60% of the translators are interested in certifications. Graph 4.8, which was already explained in the previous section, illustrates this result. In addition, Graph 4.8 is shown again in order to compare these results with the results of the question 19 of the UNAM's survey: *¿Te gustaría certificarte por parte de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)?*

Table 4.13 Question 19 of the UNAM's survey

Participants	UNAM's answers
404	yes
14	No
59	I don't know yet



Graph 4.14 Taken from UNAM's research (Departamento de traducción e interpretación (DTP), 2014)

The results to this question states that 85% of the translators would like to have a certification from the UNAM. In this case the results are higher than the author's research results. The next table shows a comparison between them.

Table 4.14 Comparison of the amount of interested translators in certification of both studies.

Author's research (20 participants)			UNAM's research (477 participants)		
Yes	12	60%	Yes	404	84.7
Maybe or it depends	1	5%	No	14	2.9
No answer	7	35%	Aún no sé	59	12.4

The quantitative comparison shows that the interest that translators have in certification goes beyond 50%. These results support the opinions of translators who think certification in translation is important for Mexican translators. In fact, it is interesting to note that in the UNAM's survey the question is asking to know if translators like to be certified by the UNAM institution. It means that just the 2.9% of translators are not interested in being certified by that institution.

4.2.3 Quantitative comparison of certified translators and non-certified translators of both studies.

Finally, question number seven of the author's questionnaire would be presented for the quantitative analysis and compared with the question 18 of the UNAM's study. This comparison has the intention of fulfilling the second purpose of this study. The importance of knowing these results is to get an approximation of certified translators in Mexico.

The author's question is the following: *Are you certified?* (See Appendix B question 7 and Graph 4.6 for detailed answers), this question is compared to question 18 from UNAM's research. It provides the same information but also the type of certification that translators

have. The question from the UNAM is the following: *¿Qué nombramiento o certificación internacional posees?* (See Appendix C for detailed answers).

The quantitative results indicate that the 35 percentage of the translators in the author's research is certified. It means that 65 percent of the participants are not certified. On the other hand, The quantitative of the UNAM's study indicate that 305 participants are not certified and this number represents the 63.9 percent of all translators. Then if the quantity is rounded it is gotten the 64 percent and it is so similar the author's results. Consequently, 172 certified translators represent the 36.05 certified translators. Rounding this information is possible to say that 36 percent of the participants are certified.

Table 4.15 Comparison of the amount of certified translators in both studies

Author's research (20 participants)			UNAM's research (477 participants)		
Certified translators	7	35%	Certified translators	172	36.1%
Non-certified translators	13	65%	Non-certified translators	305	63.9 %

4.3 Conclusion

This chapter presented data obtained from each one of the participants. The collected data is rich to give answer to the research questions set in chapter one. At this point, every reader will be ready to determine by himself the importance that certification has in the translator's profile basing their conclusions on real evidence. However the author invites readers to go to the next chapter due to the answers to the research questions stated by the author's of this research are going to be found there.

CHAPTER V

Conclusion

5.0 Introduction

In short this chapter sets the relevant findings, the limitations of the study. Further research suggestions and a concluding part. The purpose of this chapter is to set conclusions from the findings set in chapter four, so that it gives an answer to the research questions set in chapter one and justifies the importance of certification as a factor of success in the translator's professional work.

5.1 Findings

The first research question states the following: *According to the mexican translators' experience in the field, which are their beliefs about the lack of certified translators in Mexico?* According to the information collected, it is possible to conclude that translators beliefs relating to the lack of certified translators in Mexico reveals an important truth. In Mexico there is no legal recognition of the profession. In fact, there is not a national organization that certifies translators in Mexico. This reality in the country makes that everybody who speaks English at a good level can offer translation services without being trained to do that. Consequently, clients do not require certified translators and look for those who have a low tariff. With this in mind, it is easy to understand why a translator gives up when is thinking about the possibility of obtaining a translation certification. This reflects the reason why there are a few certified translators in Mexico.

The second research question states the following: *What are the differences shown between the UNAM's study and the autor's study regarded to the importance of certification in the translators professional development in Mexico?* The correlation between the author's questionnaire and the UNAM's research are noticed when there are more similarities and the results complement each other and in both of them. When asking the participants to express their interest on being certified in the author's survey all of non-certified translators mention that they would like to do it. In the UNAM's survey most of the participants shown interest on being certified as well. In short, it is possible to determine that a

certification in translation is important to have success in the professional field of translation.

5.2 Limitations of the Research

This study contains information that is useful for interested translators on knowing a little more about certification; However, it could not reunite detailed information of every point discussed in chapter two because there is little information about it. In addition, the survey elicited only eleven questions and they were not enough to know deeply the translators' ideas about Certification. In addition, as part of the limitations of this study, it is important to recognize that the participants of the author's study are a few.

5.3 Directions for Further Research

As the research went ahead, the author of this research realized that there were more and more concepts to understand, but it was mentioned before the lack of information made the project all a challenge. It would be interesting to know about the laws that regulate translation in Mexico. Which are they?and where are the gaps to state the reasons why the organism in charged to certification relating translation has not regulated this profession.

5.4 Conclusions

After reading all this project perhaps the reader could state that the importance of certification is obvious but the author of this research would like to comment the following. There are two positions on this topic. One represents those who are in favor of certification and the other one represents to those who think that it is not necessary. Both positions are right. Why? Even though translators say that a certification is important in the translators' profile, it seems that the quantitative results also tells the opposite. If there are few certified translators what is the real reason? To understand better this point, the author of this research will compare it with the importance of eating vegetables daily. Most people know the importance of vegetables but most of them prefer junk food. In this case, the government has to intervene with actions such as education and medical orientation to make people conscious about the importance of eating vegetables. Similarly, translators know and recognize the importance of certification but the government and competitive

organizations need to take action to recognize the profession in Mexico and established parameters that translators could follow. Under this reflection, and in accordance to the analysis of the collected data, the importance of certification goes beyond the translators' profile. Translators mention many benefits of certification such as professionalism, the increment of clients, prestige, well-paid work, etcetera, but all those aspects may result in the progress of the Mexican society.

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APPENDIX A

BENEMERITA UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE PUEBLA LANGUAGE FACULTY, BUAP

Instructions: Answer the following questions in the space below of every question. Be free to use as much space as you consider necessary.

1. Are you working as a professional translator currently?
2. How long have you been working in the translation area?
3. Do you have a bachelor degree in the translation field?
4. Are you specialized in any specific translation area?
5. Do you know about the certification given by translation organizations (such as Proz, ATA, and government institutions) and its types?
6. Do you belong to any translation organization? If so, which one?
7. Are you certified?
8. Does “being certified” help you to improve your translation skills or your job opportunities?
9. Are you are interested in getting a certification in the future?
10. In your opinion, what are the reasons of the lack of certified translators?
11. Is it important for a translator to have a certification?

APPENDIX B

Table 1.

Questions	P1-(female) (Exp. 10years)	P2-(female) (Exp.29)	P3-(female) (Exp. 25)	P4-(female) (Exp. 20)
1. Are you working as a professional translator currently?	Yes.	Yes	Yes, I am.	Yes, I am
2. How long have you been working in the translation area?	10 years	20 years	Around 25 years.	20 years
3. Do you have a bachelor degree in the translation field?	No.	No	No, I have a diploma as a Conference Interpreter and Translator and a BA in Business. Back in 1975, when I studied the Diploma Course, a BA in Conference Interpreting and Translation did not exist in Mexico.	no
4. Are you specialized in any specific translation area?	Not anymore. I have taken some specialization courses, including Oil & Fields, Financial Statements, and Legal, which have served me for different periods of my professional life. Right now, I'd say my real specialization is legal.	Literary, marketing	No, even though I have worked on some areas more than others.	Marketing
5 Do you know about the certification given by translation	Yes.	Very little	No, I don't.	Yes

organizations (such as Proz, ATA, government institutions...) and its types?				
6. Do you belong to any translation organization? If so, which one?	Yes, The Proz	No	Yes, the proz and I belong to an interpreting organization since I do more interpreting than translation: CMIC (Colegio Mexicano de Intérpretes de Conferencia)	Yes, the Proz company
7. Are you certified?	Yes.	No	If being certified means belonging to Proz and CMIC, I can say I am. I don't know about any other type of certification.	No
8. Does "being certified" have help you to improve your translation skills or your job opportunities?	Yes, but you need to consider the different certification available. For example, if you are certified by the Mexican authorities, such as the Superior Court of Justice or the Mexican Council, your credentials do not guarantee your quality, because the certification process of the Mexican authorities is inadequate for many reasons. You can find "expert translators" authorized by those authorities whose translations are terribly incorrect.	n/a	Well, if being certified means belonging to CMIC, yes, it has since they offer many improvement courses and you have to comply with certain requirements to be a member.	n/a

	<p>However, if you are certified by the ATA, the very certification process is a guarantee that you are a high-quality translator.</p> <p>Being certified by the ATA has opened new international doors for me. There are not many translators in Mexico certified by the ATA. I have had the opportunity to participate in very interesting projects thanks to that certification..</p>			
9. If you are not certified, are you interested of getting a certification in the future?	n/a	Yes	Yes, but I would have to know more about what it is and what it implies and if it would help me.	Yes
10 In your opinion, what are the reasons of the lack of certified translators?	As I mentioned before, there are many (too many I'd say) certified translators, but not certified by ATA or the OMT because those credentials are not very important IN MEXICO.	Difficulty of obtaining in Mexico	Because everybody who speaks English at a fairly good level, thinks he is able to translate and they even think that by translating, they can practice their English. By the same token, companies are used to translators not having any certification.	There is not enough of information about it.
11. Do you think is important for a translator to have a certification?	Yes. Depending on the certification, it is one of the best credentials for a professional translator.	It depends on the kind of work you do. It probably helps in getting clients.	Well, I don't know specifically what you mean by "certification", but what I can tell you is that all of them	Yes

			should have a diploma course or a BA in Translation.	
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Table 2.

Questions	P5 (Male) (Exp. 17years)	P6 (Female) (Exp.5)	P7 (Male) (Exp. 16)	P8 (Male) (Exp. 21)
1. Are you working as a professional translator currently?	Yes	Yes, part-time	Yes	Yes
2. How long have you been working in the translation area?	17 years	5 years	16 years.	21 years
3. Do you have a bachelor degree in the translation field?	Yes.	Yes	No	No, I have a degree in languages
4. Are you specialized in any specific translation area?	Yes, enterprise-level translation services	No	Marketing	No
5. Do you know about the certification given by translation organizations (such as Proz, ATA, government institutions...) and its types?	Yes.	Yes	Yes	No
6. Do you belong to any translation organization? If so, which one?	Yes, The Proz and the ATA	No	Yes, The Proz	No

7. Are you certified?	Yes.	No	Yes.	No
8. Does “being certified” have help you to improve your translation skills or your job opportunities?	Yes, being certified is the best to start	n/a	Yes, translators may take an improvement course to obtain the credential	n/a
9. If you are not certified, are you interested of getting a certification in the future?	n/a	Yes	n/a	Yes
10. In your opinion, what are the reasons of the lack of certified translators?	Because most translators think that being bilingual is enough to be qualified as translator.	The Mexican labor market does not required it	Translators know very little about certifications	There is little information about the topic
11. Do you think is important for a translator to have a certification.	Yes. Like any other profession translators require to prove their translation skills by some sort of accreditation or certification.	Yes, It supports translator’s academic preparation.	Yes, because certified translators promote qualified translations.	I ´m not sure, it depends on your specializati on.

Table 3.

Questions	P9 (Female) (Exp. 12 years)	P10 (Male) (Exp. 15)	P11 (Male) (Exp. 10)	P12 (Female) (Exp. 26)
1. Are you working as a professional	Yes, I am	Yes, I am	Yes, I am	Yes

translator currently?				
2. How long have you been working in the translation area?	12 years	15 years	10 years.	26 years
3. Do you have a bachelor degree in the translation field?	No, but I have a diploma in translation.	No, I have Translation studies.	Yes	No
4. Are you specialized in any specific translation area?	Legal	Administration	Computing	Human Resources
5. Do you know about the certification given by translation organizations (such as Proz, ATA, government institutions...) and its types?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
6 Do you belong to any translation organization? If so, which one?	Yes, The Proz	Yes, The Proz	Yes, The Proz	No
7. Are you certified?	Yes.	Yes	No	No
8. Does "being certified" have helped you to improve your translation skills	Yes, undoubtedly.	Sure, and you earn more money per year.	n/a	n/a

or your job opportunities?				
9. If you are not certified, are you interested of getting a certification in the future?		n/a	Yes	Yes
10. In your opinion, what are the reasons of the lack of certified translators?	I think, it's due to the ignorance about the profession.	Well, It's difficult for translators in Mexico due to the lack of translation institutions.	There is very little information about it.	It's because in Mexico translation is not regulated so every person who speaks English is free to offer translation services.
11. Do you think is important for a translator to have a certification?	Yes, In this competitive world a certification strengths to translators professionally.	Yes, a certification gives credibility to the translator and contributes to Job opportunities.	Yes, it gives the clients the message of a well-qualified translator.	I think, it depends of the translator work and his personal interest

Table 4

Questions	P13 (Female) (Exp. 15 years)	P14 (Female) (Exp. 8)	P15 (Male) (Exp. 18)	P16 (Male) (Exp. 7)
1. Are you working as a professional translator currently?	Yes	Yes, I am	Yes	Yes
2 How long have you been working in the translation area?	15 years	8 years	18 years.	7 years

3. Do you have a bachelor degree in the translation field?	No	Yes.	No	Yes
4. Are you specialized in any specific translation area?	Legal	No	Marketing	No
5. Do you know about the certification given by translation organizations (such as Proz, ATA, government institutions...) and its types?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
6. Do you belong to any translation organization? If so, which one?	Yes, The Proz and the OMT	The Proz	Yes, The OMT and the ATA	No
7. Are you certified?	Yes.	.No	Yes	No
8. Does "being certified" have helped you to improve your translation skills or your job opportunities?	Yes. Once you decided to get a certification start the preparation process.	Sure, and you earn more money per year	Yes	n/a
9. If you are not certified, are you interested of getting a certification in the future?		Yes	n/a	Yes

10. In your opinion, what are the reasons of the lack of certified translators?	lack of legal recognition in Mexico	It's not a requirement for translators in Mexico.	Well, a certification demands a high level of preparation and just experienced and professional translators have it.	Because you do not need a certification to prove your professionalism as translator.
11. Do you think is important for a translator to have a certification?	Yes. It would be a requisite to formalize the labor market in Mexico.	Yes	Yes, the development of the profession in Mexico would increase.	Yes

Table 5

Questions	P17 (Male) (Exp. 15 years)	P18 (Female) (Exp. 36)	P19 (Female) (Exp. 24)	P20 (Female) (Exp. 8)
1. Are you working as a professional translator currently?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. How long have you been working in the translation area?	15 years	36 years	24 years.	8 years
3. Do you have a bachelor degree in the translation field?	No, I have a Master's degree in business and a diploma in translation	No. I have a diploma in translation	No	Yes
4. Are you specialized in any specific translation area?	Business	Education	Literature and poetry	No
5. Do you know about the certification given by translation	Yes	Yes	Very little	No

organizations (such as Proz, ATA, government institutions...) and its types?				
6. Do you belong to any translation organization? If so, which one?	Yes, OMT and the Proz	Yes, The Poz	Yes, The Proz	No
7. Are you certified?	No	No	No	No
8. Does "being certified" have helped you to improve your translation skills or your job opportunities?	n/a	n/a		n/a
9. If you are not certified, are you interested of getting a certification in the future?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10. In your opinion, what are the reasons of the lack of certified translators?	Because the translator must have a high level of translation skills. In addition, a certification costs time and money.	It's difficult to obtain it.	Translators can work without a certification	Most clients do not require it
11. Do you think is important for a translator to have a certification?	Yes, a certified translator is highly competitive to enter to the translation industry	Yes	Yes	Yes

APPENDIX C

Question 18 of the UNAM's survey:

Participants	% of participants	Answers
13	3%	federal ante el Consejo de la Judicatura Federal
70	15%	Perito traductor estatal ante el Tribunal de Justicia del Estado
26	5%	Perito auxiliar de la Administración de Perito traductor Justicia del TSJDF
7	1%	Perito traductor de la Procuraduría General de la República
0	0%	Perito traductor de la Fiscalía General del Estado
0	0%	Perito Intérprete-traductor ante el Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indígenas (INALI)
32	7	American Translators Association (ATA)
26	5%	ProZ.com Certified PRO Network
0	0%	Institute of Translation & Interpreting (ITI) certification
3	1	National Association of Judiciary Interpreters (NAJIT)
1	0%	Conseil des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes du Canada
305	64%	Ninguno
58	12%	Otro