

Laundering vs. Blanqueo: Translating Financial Crime Metaphors From English to Spanish

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Abstract : This study examines the translation and use of metaphors in the realm of public safety discourse and intends to shed light on a continuing problem in cross-cultural communication. Metaphors can cause problems not only within languages but also in interlingual communication. The use and misuse of metaphors may hinder the ability to adequately communicate prevention efforts and, in some cases, facilitate and allow financial crime to go undetected. The use of lexicalized metaphors in communications by political entities, journalists, and legal agents in communications regarding law, policy making, compliance monitoring and enforcement as well as in adjudication can have negative consequences if misconstrued. This study provides examples of metaphor usage in published documents in a corpus linguistic study that compares the use of lexicalized metaphors in this discourse to shed light on possible unexpected consequences as well as counterproductive ones.

Keywords : translation, legal, corpus linguistics, financial

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