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Abstract Essay  
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The following is my abstract in Spanish and what follows is the English version of the abstract.

### **Los retos y problemas al traducir la canción “Bracero” por Phil Ochs**

Los problemas asociados con traducir documentos literarios como canciones y poesía son demasiado complejos, por ende exigen la consideración de los diferentes procedimientos por los estudios de traducción. Estas teorías proponen las técnicas siguientes: transposición, modulación, omisión, adaptación y adición. Mediante la aplicación de estos métodos yo propongo una traducción de la canción “Bracero” por Phil Ochs y una explicación de los problemas a los que me enfrente en algunas frases específicas mientras traducía la canción. Como resultado de mi proyecto mi lector tendrá un mejor entendimiento de los retos involucrados al traducir un documento, como un poema o una canción y la importancia de comprender su historia con su contexto.

### **The Challenges and Problems while translating the song, “Bracero” by Phil Ochs**

The problems associated with translating literary documents such as songs and poetry are too complex, which require the consideration of the different defined procedures by the translation studies. These theories propose the following techniques: transposition, modulation, omission, adaptation and addition. By applying these methods I propose a translation of the song, “Bracero” by Phil Ochs and an explanation of the problems I encountered in some of the specific phrases while I translated the song. As a result of my project my reader will have a better

understanding of the challenges involved when translating a document, such as a poem or a song and the importance of comprehending its history with its context.

A summary of my essay and presentation would be the following: The knowledge gained while working in my Capstone is amazing. I basically covered three things, the methods used when translating a document, which is not really a rule to follow, however many translators have had great success. The history of the Bracero Program or better said a little of the history of the Bracero Program. The other topic I covered was a little bit of the biography of Phil Ochs. I made sure the history of the Bracero program and Phil Ochs biography did not over take my topic. I needed to focus on my topic; Challenges and Problems Translating, “Bracero” by Phil Ochs. Even though the story of the Bracero Program is of great interest to me I could not emphasize it too much, otherwise the public was going to be confused about my topic. Phil Ochs’s life history is also very interesting, but again I could not focus on his life too much.

The translating methods used when translating a document are the following: Transposition, modulation, adaptation, omission and addition. The following is a brief explanation of each.

Transposition is the basic method where we change the structure of the sentence and reach an equivalent meaning of what the author was trying to say. We do this because the sentence pushes us to do so because it is a sentence that cannot be translated word for word.

The modulation method is where we seek an idiomatic expression in the target language. In other words, what is popular in the target language to say to convey the same message from the original language? An example of an idiomatic expression would be; *it is raining cats and dogs*. There is no way that idiomatic expression can be translated to the target language and be understood unless we find the idiomatic expression, which is *esta lloviendo a cantaró*.

Adaptation tries to look for a different way of expressing the same thought without changing the Deep meaning of what the author was trying to convey.

In my Project I used the addition method, but did not use the omission method. I agree with Child that in Spanish we use more words. He uses the term, “roundabout.” The Spanish language is more descriptive and many times the work done in the target language will be more words than the original language, which was the case in the song titled, “Bracero” by Phil Ochs.

As mentioned previously the more I read about the Bracero Program the more I learn. However, I was only able to highlight some of the issues with the program. The short handle hoe was one of them. This hoe forced workers to work bend down the entire day in 100 to 110 degrees of heat and for ten to twelve hours a day. It is no longer legal.

The living conditions of the Braceros are another issue I found to be a horrible thing for the Braceros to go through. Up to 200 braceros were forced to live in a big storage room. Unbelievable!

The use of DDT was another issue. A person who worked for the Department of Agriculture had a mask on while he sprayed the DDT on the Braceros. All these men were required to be healthy to be able to come to the United States and work. If they were healthy when they came I am sure they were not when they left. The result of having contact with such substance is deadly sometimes. Cancer, respiratory problems, and other health issues are the result of exposing to such chemical. It was banned in the US in 1972 and production in the United States was stopped as well.

Phil Ochs was an amazing man in that he captured a lot of what happened to the Braceros in the song titled, “Bracero.” I am glad he made time to compose this song and I am glad I did my Capstone on such topic. His songs will forever live and now one of them is available in

Spanish thanks to a persistent student at CSUMB who got the help she needed by her professors to accomplish such task.

In conclusion, one cannot and should not read a poem without reaching out to its context. When was it written? What was the political and social environment of when it was written? When we put all these together we get a better understanding of the material or poem or song. When we translate a song we must see what the appropriate way of communicating is in the target language. The result will be that our reader will have a better understanding of the literary document that was translated.