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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# The Madrilenian Legislative Institution 'Asamblea de Madrid' and the Scottish Parliament. Contrastive Complexity in (Spanish-English) Specialised Translation

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## ABSTRACT

This paper explores the contrastive analysis between the 'Asamblea de Madrid', the highest institutional body in the Region of Madrid, Spain. Created in 1983, the 'Asamblea de Madrid' is one of the most distinguished bodies within the European Union and one of the 17 decentralised regional bodies after the 1978 Spanish Constitution. This legislative power controls 7 million inhabitants (as of March 2025) of the Region of Madrid (referred as 'Comunidad de Madrid'). This comparison is extended with the Parliament of Scotland. This important institution governs Scotland, one of the most remarkable historical places in Europe. As it happens with Comunidad de Madrid, the Scottish culture, history and importance in the world is undeniable. The Parliament of Scotland is the decision-making institution of more than 5.4 million people. Both institutions, essential in two important regions in Europe, Comunidad de Madrid and Scotland, with their own cultural, political and powerful idiosyncrasies, will be the main core of this analysis. This will be focused on the phraseology of both 'chambers' in order to increase a bidirectional translation of both legal institutions that comprise more than 12 million of inhabitants in both territories. This research is unique for several reasons: firstly, the comparative study of both bodies, important legislative institutions within Europe and the world, has not been conducted until now. In addition to this, this comparative study of these two institutions that belong to two different legal families, the Common Law (English Law) in Scotland and the Continental Law (Civil Law) in Spain, opens a new perspective of Legal Translation in these two important regions of Europe.

## KEYWORDS

Asamblea de Madrid, Parliament of Scotland, Contrastive Analysis, Specialised Translation.

## ARTICLE INFORMATION

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## 1. Introduction

The study of Translation comprises specialised fields:

- Economic Translation.
- Scientific and Technical Translation.
- Legal Translation.

However, we should not forget the fact that Legal Translation is part of the cultural basis of a country, and it cannot be separated from it (Wróblewsky, 1987: 11). We can add that their legal frameworks place an essential part in the translation of terminology from two or more different legal families. Didier (1991: 9) clarifies this important fact for specialised translations within the legal sphere:

"La transposition juridique est l'opération de transfert d'un message juridique émis dans une langue et dans un système juridique, vers une autre langue et un autre système juridique".

Owing to this reason, the simple translation of two or more entities from the body that rules the Comunidad de Madrid and in Scotland is misleading. Specialised translators and interpreters, legal researchers and those who translate legal documents from one legal system into another need to consider the legal culture and specific legislation.

There exist many studies that are based on Legal Translation and the importance of the distinctive features that are noticeable with the comparison of two or more legal systems. This study focuses on the idea of many researchers, such as Šarčević (2000: 15), who explains the international attempts to unify and harmonise supranational laws that may involve two or more legal families. Piszcz and Sierocka (2020) make research of this situation within legal documents, and they consider if the universal legal theories can be applied to any legal culture.

However, this study emphasises the common, but also distinctive, features of both executive and legislative institutions in order to facilitate the English-Spanish bidirectional translation for specialised translators, but respecting both sides of the translation process. We should not avoid the inclusion of those additional tasks that make each of them clearly independent from the other, considering their specific duties and compare them with their counterpart.

Therefore, it is important for experts, legal specialists and interpreters to be aware of these differences in both legal systems and the internal organisation of both countries, England and Wales and Spain, with their own legal systems. We need to define, therefore, the English and Spanish legal administration and how the Spanish Comunidad de Madrid and the British Scotland play an important role within their national and international limits.

## 2. The Asamblea de Madrid and the Parliament of Scotland.

The importance of this comparison lies in two different bodies that share certain legislative and executive features of two essential working languages in specialised translation: English and Spanish. However, specialised translators should not forget the existing differences that all the institutions explained in this study have and incorporate these translation distinctions in their target text.

The Asamblea de Madrid is one of the three institutions, together with the 'Presidente/a' (President of the Region of Madrid, named as Comunidad de Madrid) and the 'Gobierno' (Regional Government) of the Comunidad de Madrid. It is in charge of the legislative power within the Comunidad de Madrid. The Asamblea de Madrid is one of the three institutions of the Madrilanian Government, together with the Presidente/a de la Comunidad de Madrid (closest equivalence in the figure of the Scottish First Minister) and the Government of it.

**Table 1: Comparison of the Asamblea de Madrid and the Scottish Parliament**

	<b>Asamblea de Madrid</b>	<b>Scottish Parliament</b>
<b>Logo / Coat of Arms</b>		
<b>Creation and Legislation</b>	1983 Estatuto de Autonomía de la Comunidad de Madrid Leyes orgánicas 2/1991, de 13 de marzo y 5/1998, de 7 de julio	1998 Scotland Act 1998
<b>Venue (building date)</b>	Old building: Caserón de San Bernardo (1983-1998) New building (1998- )	Old building: Reestablished in 1999 The New Parliament Building (2004)
<b>Main Figure</b>	Presidente/a (Presidencia)	Presiding Officer (PO)
<b>Second Main Figure</b>	Vicepresidente/a Primero/a Vicepresidente/a Segundo/a Vicepresidente/a Tercero/a	Deputy Presiding Officer Deputy Presiding Officer (DPO)
<b>Number of Members (in 2025)</b>	135 diputados	129 Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs)

### 3. Methodology

The methodology of this study is based on the comparison of every executive and legislative feature of both institutions in order to state the similarities and differences for specialised translators and experts who could have, for the first time, a comparison of these two essential institutions in Spain and Scotland.

This methodology is based on the comparison of official sources from the Comunidad de Madrid and the Parliament of Scotland, which are:

**Comunidad de Madrid:** Asamblea de Madrid website (<https://www.asambleamadrid.es/>).

**Scotland:** Parliament of Scotland website (<https://www.parliament.scot/>).

This comparative study will reveal common and different terminologies in order to find lexical equivalences or, at least, as close as possible to the source language.

The contrastive analysis shows some similarities and differences in both institutions. In both bodies, the highest rank is the 'Presidente' or 'Presidenta' in the Comunidad de Madrid, whereas the Scottish top rank in the Parliament is named as the Scottish 'Presiding Officer'. Both have the help of the 'Vicepresidente / a Primero / a' in the Comunidad de Madrid and the Deputy Presiding Officers in Scotland. If both institutions are compared, we could establish certain patterns that would help specialised translators translate both bodies.

### 4. Findings. Similarities and Differences in Bidirectional Translations

This section will analyse the main bodies of the Asamblea de Madrid and the Parliament of Scotland. Despite the differences between both institutions, this comparison will establish certain similitudes in order to ease the bidirectional (English-Spanish) translations, specialised translators need to find the closest equivalence and comment the additional differences in both the source and the target languages.

#### 4.1 Presidente/a and Presiding Officer

Both the Madrilenian (Madrid's) 'Presidente' or 'Presidenta' of the Asamblea de Madrid, who chairs the 'Presidencia' (presiding body of the institution) and the 'Vicepresidentes / as Segundo / a' have a similar equivalence with the Scottish Presiding Officer (PO) and their Deputy Presiding Officers (DPOs).

The equivalence in the Madrid's 'Presidente/a de la Asamblea de Madrid' and the 'Presiding Officers' is almost clear. Both bodies share some duties, such as the chairing of the meetings and Plenary Sessions in both bodies. The 'Presidente/a de la Asamblea de Madrid' additionally shares the following tasks with their Scottish counterpart: both of them are elected by the rest of the Members, although their terms are different in each institution.

The Madrilenian executive body of 'Presidente/a de la Asamblea', the leading body of Madrid's 'Asamblea', is elected for the whole 'legislatura' (when the government of the Comunidad de Madrid is in office: 'session', defined as 'a parliamentary session runs from the date of the first meeting of the Parliament after a general election until the Parliament is dissolved.')

Additionally, they both control the meetings or sessions and monitor the respect in both institutions. However, this main role in both bodies is extended to other areas that we compare in the following chart, which shows the most important convergences of both bodies:

**Table 2: the Comparative Features of Presidente/a de la Asamblea de Madrid and Presiding Officer**

Comunidad de Madrid	Scotland
Convergence of Terms	
Presidente/a de la Asamblea de Madrid	Presiding Officer
Elección: <u>Votación</u> secreta por papeletas, efectuándose el llamamiento por orden alfabético primero de los <u>Diputados</u> , luego de los <u>miembros del Gobierno</u> que tengan la condición de Diputados y finalmente los <u>miembros de la Mesa</u> en orden inverso al de su precedencia.	The election of the PO and DPOs is by <u>secret ballot</u> . PO and DPO are <u>elected by the Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs)</u> at the start of a new session of the Parliament.

<p>El Presidente <u>dirige y mantiene el orden</u> los debates. Dirigir la acción y coordinar la ejecución de los acuerdos tanto de la Mesa como de la Junta de Portavoces.</p> <p><u>Convocar la Diputación Permanente o el Pleno.</u></p> <p>Convocar y presidir cualquier Comisión o delegar esta función en las Vicepresidencias. <u>Puede convocar sesiones extraordinarias del Pleno.</u></p>	<p><u>Chairing meetings</u> attended by all MSPs in the Debating Chamber.</p> <p>Chairing Parliamentary Bureau meetings.</p> <p>Chairing Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body meetings.</p>
<p><u>Maneja los tiempos de debates, resuelve sobre las llamadas al Reglamento,</u></p> <p>las <u>alusiones que puedan hacerse en el curso de los debates los oradores</u>, las solicitudes de observancia del Reglamento, los cierres de debates, proclama los resultados de las votaciones, etc.</p>	<p><u>Calling MSPs to speak in the Chamber, maintaining order and responding to any questions on procedure.</u></p> <p><u>The PO chooses the questions to be asked at First Minister's Questions, Urgent Questions and Topical Questions.</u></p> <p><u>Selecting the questions</u> asked at the weekly <u>First Minister's Question Time.</u></p>
<p><u>Fijación de los órdenes del día del Pleno. Ordena los debates; ordena y resuelve el sistema de votaciones; llama a la cuestión y al orden.</u></p> <p>Ordena y resuelve el <u>sistema de votaciones.</u></p>	<p>The PO has the <u>casting vote to decide</u> whether or not a motion or amendment is agreed to.</p> <p>Chair of the Parliamentary Bureau (which proposes the Parliament's business programme).</p> <p>If the Presiding Officer proposes a day for the <u>holding of the poll</u> which is not more than one month earlier, nor more than one month later, than the first Thursday in May...</p>
<p>Impartir instrucciones al Secretario General respecto a la dirección del personal y servicios de la Secretaría General.</p> <p>Disponer las publicaciones en los diarios oficiales de la Cámara y el reparto extraordinario de documentación por razones de urgencia.</p> <p>Como <u>órgano de contratación</u> puede contratar dentro de las cuantías establecidas por el Reglamento de Régimen Interior de la Asamblea y la legislación vigente en materia de contratos (Ley de Contratos del Sector Público).</p>	<p>Resignation of members</p> <p>A member of the Parliament may at any time resign his seat by giving notice in writing to the Presiding Officer.</p>
<p><u>Toma el juramento</u> o promesa de los Diputados.</p>	<p>The Presiding Officer or such other person as may be authorised by standing orders may—</p> <p>(a) <u>administer an oath to any person</u> giving evidence in proceedings of the Parliament, and</p> <p>(b) require him to <u>take the oath.</u></p>
<p><b>Divergence of Terms (Less Close Equivalences)</b></p>	
<p>Puede admitir a trámite nuevas enmiendas al articulado que tengan por <u>finalidad subsanar errores o incorrecciones técnicas</u>, terminológicas o gramaticales o la transacción entre las ya presentadas y el dictamen siempre que, en este último caso, ningún Grupo Parlamentario se oponga a su admisión y ésta comporte la retirada de las</p>	<p>The Presiding Officer shall, on or before the introduction of a Bill in the Parliament, decide <u>whether or not in his view the provisions of the Bill would be within the legislative competence</u> of the Parliament and state his decision.</p>

enmiendas al articulado respecto de las que se transige.	
Traslada al Gobierno las pertinentes iniciativas, enmiendas y otros escritos parlamentarios al Gobierno. Traslada a otras instituciones las decisiones adoptadas por la Asamblea (incluidas las de constitución de la Cámara o investidura del Presidente de la Comunidad); o recaba de ellas la información que proceda.	(1) It is for the Presiding Officer to submit Bills for Royal Assent. (2) The Presiding Officer shall not submit a Bill for Royal Assent at any time when— (a) the Advocate General, the Lord Advocate or the Attorney General is entitled to make a reference in relation to the Bill under section 33, (b) any such reference has been made but has not been decided or otherwise disposed of by the Judicial Committee, or (c) an order may be made in relation to the Bill under section 35.
Gabinete de Prensa. Ruedas de prensa, coordina los medios de comunicación...	PO and DPOs are international ambassadors for the Scottish Parliament. They welcome guests to the Parliament and share experiences and approaches with other parliaments.

However, we can therefore distinguish the role of the Chair with its similar equivalence in the Asamblea de Madrid, named as 'Presidente/a de la Asamblea de Madrid'.

#### **4.2 Frontbenchers. Junta de Portavoces. Comunidad de Madrid and Scotland**

Frontbenchers are defined as the 'Ministers or the spokespersons of opposition parties'. In the comparison of this concept with its Madrilenian equivalence is close to 'Junta de Portavoces' and 'portavoz'.

'La Mesa de la Cámara' is the main governing body of the Asamblea de Madrid. Its members belong to the Parliament groups and, therefore, they deal with the different issues of the Madrilenian Asamblea. They are in the following cases:

- 'El pleno' (equivalence: Assembly Plenary meeting).
- 'La Diputación Permanente' (there is not an equivalence within the Scottish context. It is similar to the Assembly Members, but the Madrid 'Diputación Permanente' has a more categorical lawmaking role in the Comunidad de Madrid. If this term appears in a text, translators need to maintain the original and explain it with a descriptive translation or an amplification).
- 'La Junta de Portavoces'. Thanks to which the Parliament groups participate in the management and organization of the 'Cámara'. In this case the Asamblea de Madrid uses the Presidente/a de la Asamblea (Presiding Officer) and the group of the different group speakers. In the case of the Parliament of Scotland, translators need to include an amplification in the closest equivalence in English. It is close to the Scottish 'spokespersons' and 'frontbenchers'.

#### **4.3. Mesa de la Asamblea de Madrid. Equivalence in Scotland**

The Mesa is the main governing body of the Asamblea de Madrid. It is composed of the 'Presidente de la Asamblea' (equivalent to the Presiding Officer), three 'Vicepresidentes' (equivalent to the Scottish Deputy Presiding Officers) and three 'Secretarios'. The contrastive comparison with the Scottish Parliament is complex. As it happens with other bodies of both institutions, we may establish a similar equivalence, even though specialised translators should bear in mind the divergent features and tasks in both legislative institutions. The comparison with Scotland reveals the body called 'Parliamentary Bureau', made up of the Presiding Officer and a representative from each party or group. The Bureau proposes the Parliament's business programme every week, the establishment of committees and their memberships.

The comparison is, at this point, difficult to establish. Unlike the close similarity with the Presidente/a and the Presiding Officer, it is difficult to find similarities with the Spanish body 'Mesa', which 'sets the Asamblea's programme and the commissions.'

Additionally, it coordinates the Parliamentary tasks and the different documents of the Asamblea.

It seems that the comparison with both bodies is not that similar. If translators need to translate any of these two terms into the target language, they are close, yet with many explanatory descriptions in the target text.

## **5. Legislative and Governing Activities in the Asamblea de Madrid and the Parliament of Scotland**

### **5.1. Plenary Sessions**

The daily routine in both governing institutions is reflected in the Madrilenian 'Sesiones Plenarias' and its Scottish equivalence 'Plenary'. Both have the same legislative functions, so specialised translators may find both terms as equivalent concepts in a bidirectional translation.

However, this translation in the target language becomes more difficult as specialised translators and interpreters dive into more complex debates. Firstly, one of the most important debates in the Asamblea de Madrid is the 'Debate sobre la Orientación Política General del Gobierno o Debate del estado de la Región'. It is an annual solemn debate that analyses and questions the Government in the Comunidad de Madrid.

If we consider the Scottish Parliament, this study may find a similar concept in the target language. One closest equivalence is 'First Minister's Question Time'. The term is not completely exact, as in most of the cases, but target readers in both cultures may find a similar equivalence and the communicative process is open and effective.

Therefore, specialised translators should be aware of these differences. A possible equivalence that respect both languages and make the target text clear could be 'The President (of the Region)'s Question Time'. This domestication of the target term in English reveals the similar structure, linguistically speaking, and the respect of the source and the target languages. If specialised translators need to translate 'First Minister's Question Time' into Spanish, they will find the same issue, so a good translation option would be an amplification: 'Turno de preguntas al Primer Ministro escocés'. Owing to the executive position of the Primer Minister in Scotland, specialised translators may include a note to extend their translation in the target language. One possible option would be 'el Primer Ministro escocés, encargado de gobernar el territorio escocés, correspondería con el Presidente de la Comunidad de Madrid' (the Scottish First Minister, in charge of the Scottish government, would correspond to the Spanish 'Presidente de la Comunidad de Madrid', the President of the Region of Madrid).

The Madrilenian concept of 'Sesiones' is divided into 'ordinarias' and 'extraordinarias'. While the former are held every Thursday, the former do not take place on working day ('días hábiles'). In the case of the Scottish Parliament, specialised translators find a similar equivalence: the most common meetings are named as 'Assembly meetings', 'Committee meetings' or 'session' (approximate equivalence between the Scottish and the Madrilenian institutions). In the equivalence of 'sesiones extraordinarias', translators may include a more specific term, using an amplification in the target text.

### **5.2. Commissions**

In the case of the Scottish Parliament, we may find a possible equivalent in the committees. Both institutions have a list of committees that are essential for both territories. Specialised translators and legal experts need to be aware of the main differences in both cultures. However, legal translators may find certain similarities between the source and the target language and culture.

Firstly, we need to compare the terms 'comisiones' and 'committees'. Madrid's 'comisiones' are stated in the Title IV, Chapter IV, Section 62 to 76. The Asamblea de Madrid may establish two types of 'comisiones': 'permanente' and 'no permanente'.

According to the Asamblea de Madrid glossary, the 'comisión' is:

Órgano de la Asamblea especializado por razón de la materia y compuesto por un número reducido de Diputados que se decide al principio de la Legislatura o al crearse la Comisión (si es No Permanente), en proporción a la representación numérica de los Grupos en la Cámara, en el que generalmente se examinan, estudian y preparan los asuntos sobre los que tiene que decidir el Pleno de la Asamblea. En algunas ocasiones, no obstante, puede decidir sin elevar el asunto al Pleno. Las Comisiones pueden ser: Permanentes (si existen desde el principio de la Legislatura por previsión reglamentaria) o No Permanentes (si se crean transitoriamente para el estudio o la investigación de un asunto determinado). También se clasifican las Comisiones en: Legislativas (aquellas que pueden tramitar leyes) y no legislativas (las que no pueden hacerlo).

In other words, this specialised body deals with a specific matter. It can be created temporally ('no permanente') or at the beginning of every period of a session.

In these committees ('comisiones') of both entities, we find some of them with similar tasks. This study reveals three types of committees, named here as common committees, mixed committees, and uncommon committees. Most of the basic committees are common in both cases, as it happens with the Madrilenian 'Comisión de Sanidad' (Health Committee). Therefore, specialised translators do not have serious problems with the translation of these terms, even though they need to state any difference in the target language if it exists.

However, many of them are mixed committees, as they include additional tasks in one or another culture. Additionally, specialised translators should be aware of the divergences in the different 'comisiones' or 'committees' in both entities. Owing to this fact, legal translators and experts need to explain the differences in the target text. The use of footnotes (amplification) and descriptive translations do help in the correct final version of these bidirectional equivalences.

The translation of these 'comisiones' or 'committees' needs to be complete and accurate. Specialised translators may therefore find two main possibilities when translating these committees.

However, most of the committees (Scotland) and 'comisiones' (Comunidad de Madrid) do not have a similar equivalence. Their overlapping tasks make them more difficult to translate into the other language. We can trace certain similarities in the committees of both institutions, so specialised translators and experts need to have a descriptive translation and, additionally, an explanatory footnote if needed. The approximate equivalences of committees in both institutions appear in the chart below:

**Table 3: Approximate Equivalences in the Committees of Both Parliaments**

<b>Approximate Bidirectional Equivalences in Both Parliaments (English &lt; &gt; Spanish) of Committees (as of August 2025)</b>	
<b>Comisiones (Asamblea de Madrid)</b>	<b>Committees (Parliament of Scotland)</b>
Comisión de Estatuto de Autonomía, Reglamento y Estatuto del Diputado	Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee
Comisión de Presupuestos y Hacienda	Public Audit Committee Finance and Public Administration Committee
Comisión de Economía y Empleo Comisión de Cultura	Economy and Fair Work Committee
Comisión de Medio Ambiente, Agricultura e Interior	Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
Comisión de Sanidad	Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Comisión de Vivienda, Transportes e Infraestructuras	Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Comisión de Juventud	Education, Children and Young People Committee

### **5.3. Petitions, Motions, and Publications in Scotland. Equivalences in the Asamblea de Madrid**

Another similar feature in both institutions is the use of petitions, motions, and publications. Owing to the legislative purpose of both legislative entities, specialised translators may find common tasks in both cases, so equivalent translations are possible.

If we consider both documents, translators can find similarities in order to have an appropriate target term. The closest equivalence in both cases is 'petición'. Specialised translators need to distinguish it in the target term, but respecting, as in every translation, the original concept.

The heavily codified Asamblea de Madrid publishes the official BOAM (Spanish acronym for *Boletín Oficial de la Asamblea de Madrid*). This gazette officially incorporates and compiles all the legislative information of the Region of Madrid (Comunidad de Madrid).

### **5.4. Publications and External Relations**

Another comparative element in both institutions is the use of publications and external relations with other national and international parliaments. As it happens with most of the bodies of both parliaments, we may establish the closest equivalence in the target culture.

The Scottish Parliament owns its official publication in the *Journal of the Scottish Parliament*. Defined as the 'record of Parliament business in the Chamber', it includes the minutes of meetings ('actas de las sesiones parlamentarias'), the Bills ('anteproyectos de ley'), the statutory instruments, and the committee reports and other documents. It is 'central, long-term, authoritative record of what the Parliament has done'.

Specialised translators can maintain the source term in their translation, but there exists a similar target concept of it. This is the case of the publication of the Madrilenian Parliament (Asamblea de Madrid) named as *Boletín Oficial de la Asamblea de Madrid* (BOAM). The comparative analysis of their publications reveals common features of both publications.

The Parliament of Scotland has the 'Official Reports' (Ors), which has a similar equivalence in the Asamblea de Madrid: 'Diario de sesiones'. They both are the written records of everything that has been said in public meetings ('sesiones') of both parliaments.

Owing to their importance in both territories, both the Scottish and the Madrilenian Parliaments offer international (external) relations. They work with other parliaments and international relations. In Scotland these international relations appear in the international organisations, such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), without an equivalence in Spanish. Owing to its specific focus on Commonwealth territories, this does not have its similar concept in Spanish, so translators may leave the original term with an explanatory amplification (i.e. use of footnotes).

The same happens with the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) and the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA).

The Scottish Parliament (and the other United Kingdom parliaments, such as the Welsh and Northern Irish parliaments) were part of the CALRE (in English 'The Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies') which joins 69 presidents of European regional legislative assemblies. However, they do not belong to this, since the United Kingdom left the European Union in the year 2020.

The Madrilenian Asamblea belongs to this organisation (CALRE) together with the other Spanish parliaments and regional parliaments in Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy and Portugal. Additionally, the Asamblea de Madrid is part of a Spanish organisation of the COPREPA. In this latter concept we may find the equivalence in the COPREPA, which is the meeting of the regional presidents of Spain.

In a comparative analysis, we may find it similar to the BIPA, mentioned above. They both join the parliaments of both countries, so specialised translators may have a close adapted term in both cases, bearing in mind that they share common tasks, even though with national distinctions that translators need to incorporate in their target texts.

The next chart summarises the main terms in both institutions (the Spanish Asamblea de Madrid and the British Parliament of Scotland) with their possible equivalences in the target language. As it has been previously mentioned, this similarity does not completely correspond in the target language, but as an **approximate term** in the target language. Specialised translators should incorporate explanatory notes if needed:

**Table 4: Main Translation Equivalences in Asamblea de Madrid and the Parliament of Scotland**

<b>Approximate (English &lt;&gt; Spanish) Bidirectional Equivalences</b>	
<b>Asamblea de Madrid (Spanish) &lt;&lt;&lt; &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	<b>&lt;&lt;&lt;&gt;&gt;&gt; Parliament of Scotland (English)</b>
Actas de las Sesiones Parlamentarias	Minutes of meetings
Anteproyectos de ley de la Asamblea de Madrid	Bills of the Parliament of Scotland
Boletín Oficial de la Asamblea de Madrid	Journal of the Scottish Parliament
Cámara	Chamber
Comisiones	Commissions
Diario de sesiones	Official Reports
Diputados/as de la Asamblea de Madrid	Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs)
(Junta de) Portavoces	Frontbenchers
Presidente/a de la Asamblea de Madrid	Presiding Officer
Sesión/es plenarias	Plenary Sessions
Vicepresidente/a de la Asamblea de Madrid	Deputy Presiding Officer

## 6. Conclusion

Specialised translators need to remember that we cannot a legal term into another if there is not a complete equivalent concept in the target language. The bidirectional comparison in our previous suggestion includes several legal competences in the



Asamblea de Madrid and in the Parliament of Scotland. However, we should consider that both geographical entities, CM and GLA, have a different cultural, historical, and political context that results in two similar, yet with their own idiosyncrasies, entities. Owing to this fact, specialised translators and legal experts need to distinguish the two analysed institutions that are essential part in these two geographical contexts. Their bidirectional translations need to establish common patterns in both bodies, so that the equivalence in the target language is complete.

The comparison that has taken place in the study reveals remarkable similarities that facilitate the translation. This is the case of most of the bodies in the Spanish and English legislative and executive institutions, in which the transmission from the source language to the target language, as Didier (1991) explains, exists but with serious complexities.

The research started with 'Chair' and its equivalent term 'Presidente/a de la Asamblea de Madrid'. This target term compiles most of its counterpart in Madrid, so both terms could be translated with an equivalence.

However, the complexity in the translation of these terms embodies several aspects to be considered. Firstly, non-equivalent lexicology in both geographical contexts entails a complexity in the translation process. Even though we do find several similarities in both cases, legal experts need to detect and observe their differences in order to avoid undertranslation and a lack of an equivalent term that may suit in a bidirectional version.

Owing to this reason, this study introduces several possibilities that establish equivalences in both languages. This is the case of the Spanish word "Presidente/a de la Asamblea de Madrid", which has a similar equivalence in its Scottish counterpart "Presiding Officer". Therefore, specialised translators should be aware of the differences in both entities, one coming from the Spanish Region of Madrid, an autonomous entity within Spain named as "Comunidad de Madrid".

However, the legal translation coming from both geographical contexts poses some difficulties. The constitutionally autonomous feature of the Comunidad de Madrid and its institutions, within the Spanish administrative scope, but highly independent and legally self-sufficient within Spain, results in a heavily legislative weight of the Asamblea de Madrid and its internal bodies within the Comunidad de Madrid. This legislative power in the Spanish region has a similar equivalence in its Scottish counterpart. This comparative analysis of both institutions reveals several ideas for specialised translators and legal experts. Firstly, the possibility of translating two governing institutions from two different legal systems may entail several problems. The lack of a translation equivalence in the target language should not be a problem in the bidirectional translation of documents coming from the Madrilenian legislative institution ('Asamblea de Madrid') and the Parliament of Scotland.

Secondly, this study focuses this problematic fact for legal translators and experts. Thanks to the comparative tasks of every internal body of these institutions, this research establishes the similar and different features of Madrid's 'Asamblea de Madrid' and the London Assembly. Owing to this, legal experts may face with both institutions in several legislative documents. The complexity of both entities, especially the Madrilenian 'Asamblea de Madrid', is based on their legal composition: their different bodies with their own idiosyncratic features and the lack of an equivalence in the target language.

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