Translating binomial expressions in legal agreements: a corpus-based study

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The Goal of this Paper

This paper aims at presenting the current status of our corpus-based research of binomial expressions in legal agreements in English and Brazilian Portuguese.

Binomials

- o origin
- o definition
- classifications

Binomials are also called...

(a) binomials, multinomials (Bhatia)

(b) doublets, triplets (Asensio, Crystal)

(c) [worthless] [useful] doubling (Mellinkoff)

Origin

The <u>Early Modern English</u> (1400 to 1650) was marked by the "[...] production of binomials; that is, new terminology 'commonly formed by combining a native term, or an integrated loan word, and its foreign (near-) synonym' (Nevalainen, 1999).

Terms like "bargain and sale" or "breaking and entering" are such examples, combining a French term and a term from Old English [...]"

(Barleben, 2003)

A binomial is a

- a frequent sequence of two or more words or phrases
- o belonging to the same grammatical category
- joined by a syntactic device (and or or)

More examples (Mellinkoff, 1963)

- o aid and abet
- o aid and comfort
- authorize and empower
- o cease and desist
- o fraud and deceit
- hue and cry
- o null and void
- o pains and penalties

More examples...

- o validity, legality and enforceability (n + n...)
- transfer and convey (v + v)
- signed and delivered (adj. + adj.)
- o jointly and severally (adv. + adv.)
- o any and all (pron. + pron.)

Classifying Binomials

Gustaffson (1984)

- (a) Synonymous [last] will and testament
- (b) Antonymous [be present] in person or by proxy
- (c) Complementary shoot and kill

Malkiel (1959)

- (a) Near synonyms null and void
- **(b)** Complementary assault and battery
- (c) Opposite assets and liabilities
- (d) Subdivision months and years
- (e) Consequence shot and killed

Mellinkoff (1963)

- (a) Worthless doubling force and effect
- (b) Useful binomials full faith and credit

The Role of Binomial Units

The Role of Binomials

- o "precision and all-inclusiveness" (Bhatia, 1993)
- o "a convenient linguistic device for adding weight to the end of the sentences" (Gustafsson, 1984)
- o "a distinct style marker" of legal English (Gustafsson,1984)

Using Binomials

• Thornton (1987) e Mellinkoff (1963) reminds the legal drafstmen that care must be taken in using a binomial or multinomial phrase to ensure that each of its constituents "serves a useful purpose" in essence.

 Since every word in a statute is construed so as to bear a meaning, <u>a superfluous word will become a</u> <u>potential source of contention</u>." (Thornton, 1987)

Why Study Binomial Units?

- o reason
- o common problems

Reason for studying binomial units

- They are a characteristic of legal discourse.
- They are very common in Law English.
- There are many different kinds of binomials
- They represent a challenge/trap to the legal translator
- They are rarely found in bilingual dictionaries.

- Legal Translation
- Legal Terminology
- Cultural and Linguistic Conventions

Legal Translation and Legal Terminology

- Terminology is not the only problem in Legal Translation.
- It is not enough to know the terminology.
- The translator must be familiar with the language and cultural conventions of each legal system involved.

Cultural and Linguistic Conventions

- Binomials are an integral part of English Legal Language;
- They are present in statutory provisions, opinions, boilerplate, contracts and agreements, etc., and
- as such have deserved a considerable amount of study (Mellinkoff, Bhatia, Vystrcilova, Kwok, among others).

Cultural and Linguistic Conventions

- On the other hand, the same does not apply to Brazilian Portuguese legal language
- o in which binomial expressions are much more rare.
- However, when dealing with binomial expressions, studies show that Brazilian translators tend to translate all the elements of a binomial literary

e.g. wear and tear >>>> uso e desgaste

 and, consequently, in many cases fail to attain the 'intended legal effect' of the communicative event.

The 'intended legal effect': Translating Legal Language to Legal Language

o damages >> perdas e danos

[fair] wear and tear >>> desgaste natural

Therefore...

...many binomials in English are not binomials in Portuguese and vice versa

Binomials in English >>> Binomials in Portuguese

Binomials in English >>> Binomials in English

Why Contracts and Agreements?

 The choice of text type is due to the fact that 'agreements' and 'contratos' are among the most difficult documents to translate

 They also seem to have an incredibly high concentration of binomial expressions, and

 They are among the most translated documents in the Brazilian market.

Why Contracts and Agreements?

 Certain provisions in translated agreements have been the cause of long litigation in the Brazilian Legal System.

Studying binomials

- Therefore, to study binomials in English and determine their translation equivalents, we are compiling and exploring a bilingual comparable corpus made up of authentic 'agreements' and 'contratos', totaling, approximately, 1 million words.
- Exploring such a corpus greatly depended on the tools and methods of Corpus Linguistics.
- The software used was Scott's WordSmith Tools.

- Corpus Linguistics
- o The Corpus

Corpus Linguistics

- Corpus Linguistics is the study of language based on examples of 'real life' language use.
- It is based on empirical analysis of a large and principled collection of natural texts, know as a 'corpus';
- It makes extensive use of computers for analysis;
- It depends on both quantitative and qualitative (interpretive) analytical techniques

Features of the Corpus

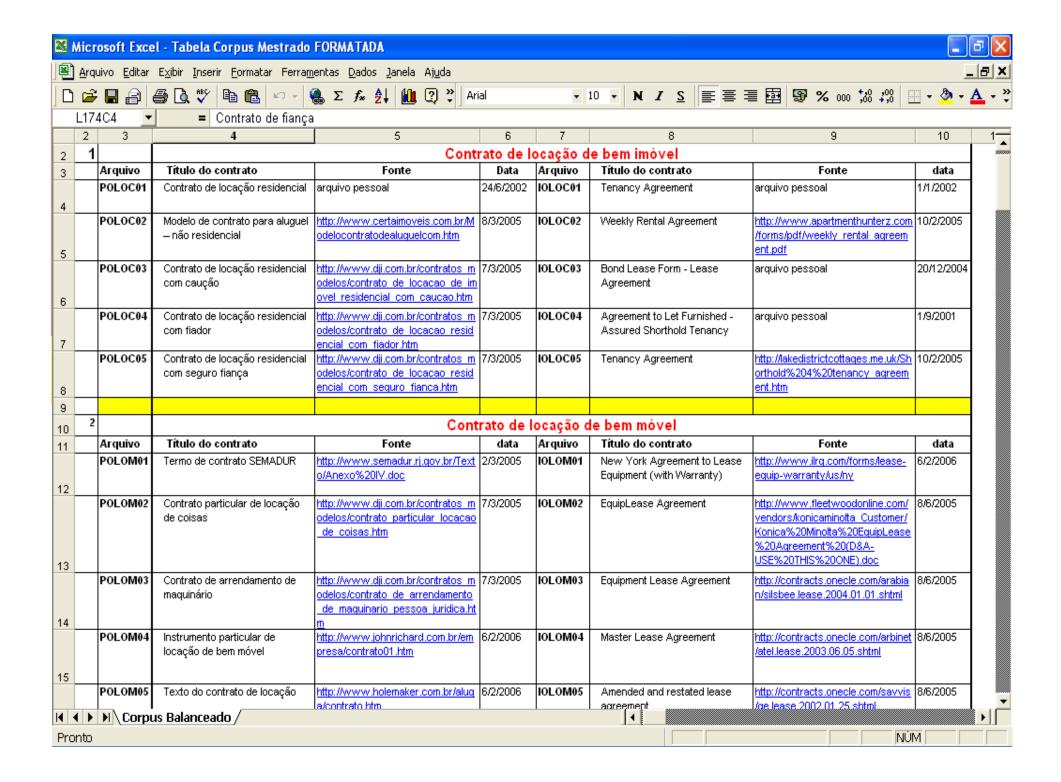
The corpus is balanced

e.g. 5 purchase and sale, 5 compra e venda, etc.

- \circ The documents in English are much longer (+2x).
 - Differences between the Common Law and Civil Law Systems.
 - More freedom of contract in the latter. More rules in the former (e.g. Codes and Laws and regulations).

Comparable Corpus

Language	English	Portuguese
Genre	Agreements	Contratos
Size (28 agreements x 5 = 140)	649.092	249.711
Types	10.233	11.413
Type/ Tokens	1.58	4.08



Arquivo Editar Formatar Exibir Ajuda
Lease Agreement Between
as Landlord
and
as Tenant
Dated as of, 20 This instrument prepared by:
This histi dillene prepared by.
Lease Agreement dated as of, 19 (this "Lease"), between, a, a
corporation (herein, together with any corporation succeeding thereto by consolidation, merger or acquisition of its assets
substantially as an entirety, called "Landlord") having an address at
, and, a, a corporation (herein, together with any corporation succeeding thereto by consolidation, merger or acquisition of its assets substantially as an entirety, called "Tenant"),
having an address at
Section 1. Lease of Premises; Title and Condition. (a) In consideration of the rents and covenants herein
stipulated to be paid and performed by Tenant and upon the terms and conditions herein specified, Landlord hereby leases to
Tenant, and Tenant hereby leases from Landlord, the premises (the "Premises") consisting of (i) the land (the "Land")
described in Schedule A, (ii) all buildings and other improvements (including the attachments and other affixed property), now or hereafter located on the Land (the "Improvements"), and (iii) the respective easements, rights and appurtenances
relating to the Land and the Improvements. The interests of Landlord in the Premises is herein called "Landlord's Estate".
The Premises are leased to Tenant in their present condition without representation or warranty by Landlord and subject to
the rights of parties in possession, to the existing state of title and to all applicable legal requirements now or hereafter
in effect. Tenant has examined the Premises and title thereto, and has found all of the same satisfactory for all purposes.
(b) Landlord Has Not Made an Inspection of the Premises or of any Property or Fixture or Other Item Constituting a Portion Thereof, and Tenant Expressly Agrees To Lease the Premises and Each Part Thereof "As Is" and "Where Is". Landlord
Shall Not Be Deemed To Have Made, and Landlord Hereby Disclaims, any Warranty or Representation, Express or Implied or
Otherwise, With Respect to the Same or the Location, Use, Description, Design, Merchantability, Fitness for Use for any
Particular Purposes, Condition or Durability Thereof, or as to the Quality of the Material or Workmanship Therein, or as to
Landlord's Title Thereto or Ownership Thereof or Otherwise, It Being Agreed That All Risks Incident Thereto Are To Be Borne
by Tenant. In the Event of any Defect or Deficiency of Any Nature In the Premises or any Property or Fixture or Other Item Constituting a Portion Thereof, Whether Patent or Latent, Landlord Shall Have No Responsibility or Liability With Respect
Thereto. The Provisions of this Section 1(b) Have Been Negotiated and Are Intended to be a Complete Exclusion and Negation
of any Warranties by Landlord, Express or Implied, With Respect to the Premises or Any Property or Fixture or Other Item
Constituting a Portion Thereof, Whether Arising Pursuant to the Uniform Commercial Code or Another Law Now or Hereafter In
Effect or Otherwise. Section 2. Use. Tenant will only use the Premises for a Landlord agrees that without the
Section 2. Use. Tenant will only use the Premises for a Landlord agrees that without the prior consent of Tenant (which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld) it shall not seek any change in the zoning
ordinances or land use category applicable to the Premises and Landlord agrees to cooperate with Tenant, at Tenant's expense,
in any effort by Tenant to oppose any changes in the present zoning ordinances or land use category applicable to the
Premises.
Section 3. Terms. The Premises are leased for (a) an initial term (the "Initial Term"), (b) a primary term (the
"Primary Term"), and (c) at Tenant's option, for up to consecutive additional terms of years each (the "Extended Terms"), unless and until the term of this Lease shall expire or be terminated pursuant to any provision hereof. The Initial
Term, Primary Term and each Extended Term shall commence and expire on the dates set forth in Schedule B. Tenant shall
exercise its option to extend the term of this Lease for one or more Extended Terms by giving notice thereof to Landlord not
less than six months prior to the expiration of the then existing term.
Section 4. Rent. (a) Tenant shall pay to Landlord in lawful money of the United States as fixed rent for the
Premises, the amounts set forth in Schedule B (collectively, "Basic Rent") on the dates set forth therein (individually a "Payment Date" and collectively the "Payment Dates"), at Landlord's address as set forth above, or at such other address or
to such other Person as Landlord from time to time may designate.

Tagset - UCREL CLAWS7

APPG

Ε

possessive pronoun, pre-nominal (e.g. my, your, our)

AT article (e.g. the, no)

AT1 singular article (e.g. a, an, every)

BCL before-clause marker (e.g. in order (that),in order (to))

CC coordinating conjunction (e.g. and, or)

CCB adversative coordinating conjunction (but)

CS subordinating conjunction (e.g. if, because, unless, so, for)

CSA as (as conjunction)

CSN than (as conjunction)

CST that (as conjunction)

CSW whether (as conjunction)

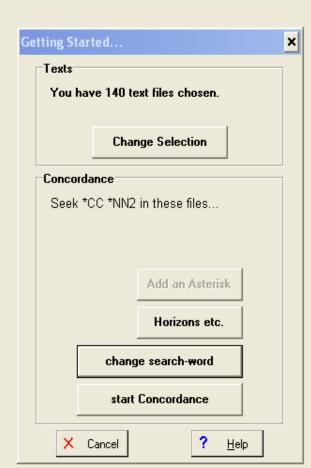
after-determiner or post-determiner capable of pronominal function (e.g. DA

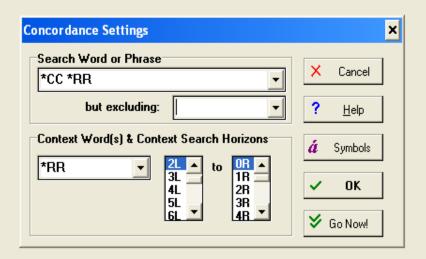
such, former, same)

Arquivo Editar Formatar Exibir Ajuda

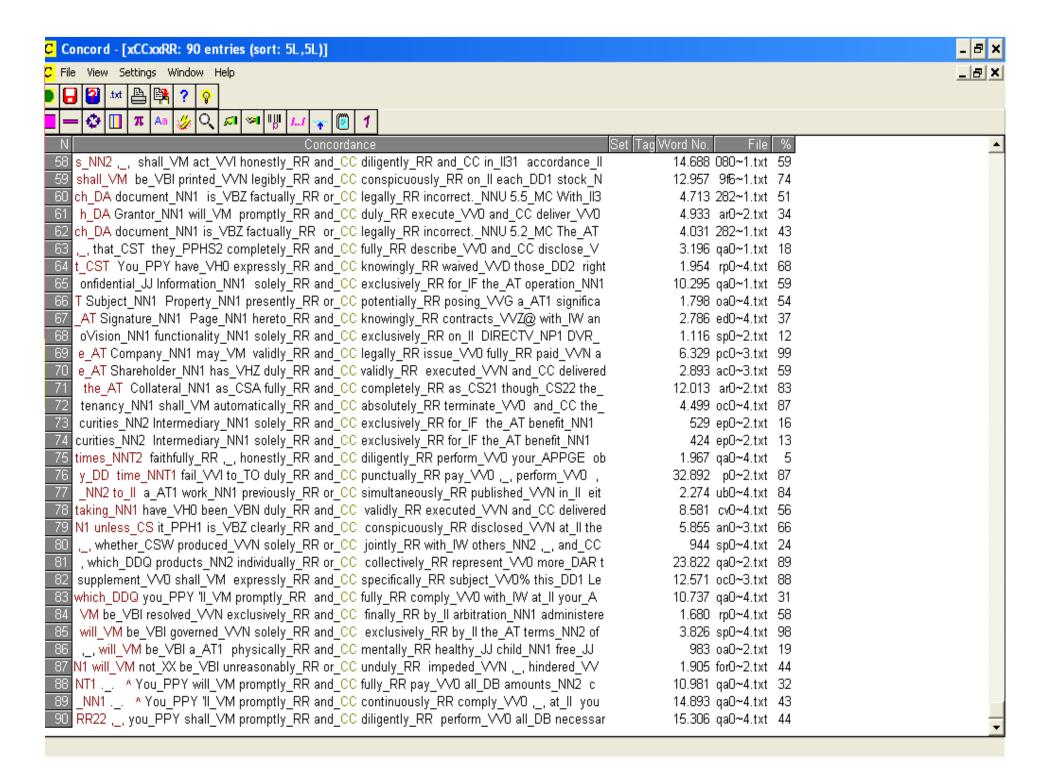
^ <text>_NULL ^ Fonte_NP1@ :_: arguivo_NN1 pessoal_JJ Data_NN :_: 20/12/2004_MF Publicao_NN1@ :_: n/a_FU Lease_NN1 Agreement_NN1 Between_II as_CSA Landlord_NN1 and_CC as_CSA Tenant_NN1 Dated_VVN as_II21 of_II22 ,_, 20_MC This_DD1 instrument_NN1 prepared_VVN by_II :_: Lease_NN1 Agreement_NN1 dated_VVN as_II21 of_II22 ,_, 19_MC (_(this_DD1 "_" Lease_NN1 _")_) ,_, between_II ,_, a_AT1 corporation_NN1 (_(herein_RR ,_, together_RL with_Iw any_DD corporation_NN1 succeeding_VVG thereto_RR by_II consolidation_NN1 ,_, merger_NN1 or_CC acquisition_NN1 of_IO its_APPGE assets_NN2 substantially_RR as_II an_AT1 entirety_NN1 ,_, called_vvN "_" Landlord_NN1 "_")_) having_vHG an_AT1 address_NN1 at_II ,_, ,_, ,_, and_CC ,_, a_AT1 corporation_NNÍ (_(herein_RR ,_, together_RL with_IW any_DD corporation_NN1 succeeding_VVG thereto_RR by_II consolidation_NN1 ,_, merger_NN1 or_CC acquisition_NN1 of_IO its_APPGE assets_NN2 substantially_RR as_II an_AT1 entirety_NN1 ,_, called_vvN "_" Tenant_NN1 "_")_) ,_, having_vHG an_AT1 address_NN1 at_II ,_, ,_, ._. ^ Section_NN1 1_MC1 ._. ^ Lease_NN1 of_IO Premises_NN2 ;_; Title_NN1 and_CC Condition_NN1 ._. ^ (_(a_ZZ1)_) In_II consideration_NN1 of_IO the_AT rents_NN2 and_CC covenants_VVZ herein_RR stipulated_VVN to_TO be_VBI paid_VVN and_CC performed_VVN by_II Tenant_NN1 and_CC upon_II the_AT terms_NN2 and_CC conditions_NN2 herein_RR specified_VVN ,_, LandTord_NN1 hereby_RR leases_VVZ@ to_II Tenant_NN1 ,_, and_CC Tenant_NN1 hereby_RR leases_vvz@ from_II Landlord_NN1 ,_, the_AT premises_NN2 (_(the_AT "_" Premises_NN2 "_")_) consisting_vvG of_IO (_(i_MC1)_) the_AT land_NN1 (_(the_AT "_" Land_NN1 "_")_) described_vvD in_II Schedule_NN1 A_ZZ1 ,_, (_(ii_MC)_) all_DB buildings_NN2 and_CC other_JJ improvements_NN2 (_(including_II the_AT attachments_NN2 and_CC other_JJ affixed_JJ@ property_NN1)_) ,_, now_RT or_CC hereafter_RT located_VVN on_II the_AT Land_NP1 (_(the_AT "_" Improvements_NN2 "_")_) ,_, and_CC (_(iii_MC)_) the_AT respective_JJ easements_NN2 ,_, rights_NN2 and_CC appurtenances_NN2 relating_VVG to_IÍ the_AT Land_NN1 and_CC the_AT Improvements_NN2 ._. ^ The_AT interests_NN2 of_IO Landlord_NN1 in_II the_AT Premises_NN2 is_VBZ herein_RR called_vvN "_" Landlord_NN1 's_GE Estate_NN1 "_" ._. ^ The_AT Premises_NN2 are_VBR leased_vvN to_II Tenant_NN1 in_II their_APPGE present_JJ condition_NN1 without_IW representation_NN1 or_CC warranty_NN1 by_II Landlord_NN1 and_CC_subject_II21 to_II22 the_AT_rights_NN2 of_IO parties_NN2 in_II possession_NN1 ,_, to_II the_AT_existing_JJ_state_NN1 of_IO title_NN1 and_CC to_II all_DB applicable_JJ legal_JJ requirements_NN2 now_RT or_CC hereafter_RT in_II effect_NN1 ._. ^ Tenant_NN1 has_VHZ examined_VVN the_AT Premises_NN2 and_CC title_NN1 thereto_RR ,_, and_CC has_VHZ found_VVN all_DB of_IO the_AT same_DA satisfactory_JJ for_IF all_RR@ purposes._NNU (_(b_ZZ1)_) Landlord_NN1 Has_VHZ Not_XX Made_vvN an_AT1 Inspection_NN1 of_IO the_AT Premises_NN2 or_CC of_IO anv_DD Property_NN1 or_CC Fixture_NN1 or_CC Other_JJ Item_NN1 Constituting_vvG a_AT1 Portion_NN1 Thereof_RR ,_, and_CC Tenant_NN1 ExpressTy_RR Agrees_vvZ To_TO Lease_vvI the_AT Premises_NN2 and_CC Each_DD1 Part_NN1 Thereof_RR "_" As_CSA Is_vBZ "_" and_CC "_" where_RRQ Is_vBZ "_" ._. ^ Landlord_NN1 Shall_VM Not_XX Be_VBI Deemed_VVN To_TO Have_VHI Made_VVN ,_, and_CC Landlord_NN1 Hereby_RR Disclaims_VVZ ,_, any_DD warranty_NN1 or_CC Representation_NN1 ,_, Express_NN1 or_CC Implied_VVD or_CC Otherwise_RR ,_, With_II31 Respect_II32 to_II33 the_AT Same_DA or_CC the_AT Location_NN1 ,_, Use_VVO ,_, Description_NN1 ,_, Design_NN1 ,_, Merchantability_NP1 ,_, Fitness_NN1 for_IF Use_NN1 for_IF any_DD Particular_JJ Purposes_NN2 ,_, Condition_NN1 or_CC Durability_NN1 Thereof_RR ,_, or_cc as_II21 to_II22 the_AT quality_NN1 of_IO the_AT Material_NN1 or_cc workmanship_NN1 Therein_RR ,_, or_cc as_II21 to_II22 Landlord_NN1 's_GE Title_NN1 Thereto_RR or_CC Ownership_NN1 Thereof_RR or_CC Otherwise_RR ,_, It_PPH1 Being_VBG Agreed_VVN That_CST All_DB Risks_NN2 Incident_NN1 Thereto_RR Are_VBR To_TO Be_VBI Borne_VVN by_II Tenant_NN1 ... ^ In_II the_AT Event_NN1 of_IO any_DD Defect_NN1 or_CC Deficiency_NN1 of_IO Any_DD Nature_NN1 In_II the_AT Premises_NN2 or_CC any_DD Property_NN1 or_CC Fixture_NN1 or_CC Other_JJ Item_NN1 Constituting_VVG a_AT1 Portion_NN1 Thereof_RR ,_, Whether_CSW Patent_NN1 or_CC Latent_JJ ,_, Landlord_NN1 Shall_VM Have_VHI No_AT Responsibility_NN1 or_CC Liability_NN1 With_IW Respect NN1 Thereto RR ... ^ The AT Provisions NN2 of IO this DD1 Section NN1 1(b) FO Have VHO Been VBN Negotiated VVN and CC Are_VBR Intended_VVN to_TO be_VBI a_AT1 Complete_JJ Exclusion_NN1 and_CC Negation_NN1 of_IO any_DD warranties_NN2 by_II Landlord_NN1 ,_, Express_NN1 or_CC Implied_vvD ,_, With_II31 Respect_II32 to_II33 the_AT Premises_NN2 or_CC Any_DD Property_NN1 or_CC Fixture_NN1 or_CC Other_JJ Item_NN1 Constituting_VVG a_AT1 Portion_NN1 Thereof_RR ,_, Whether_CSW Arising_VVG Pursuant_II21 to_II22 the_AT Uniform_JJ Commercial_JJ Code_NN1 or_CC Another_DD1 Law_NN1 Now_RT or_CC Hereafter_RT In_II Effect_NN1 or_CC Otherwise_RR ._. ^ Section_NN1 2_MC ._. ^ Use_VVO ._. ^ Tenant_NN1 will_VM only_RR use_vVI the_AT Premises_NN2 for_IF a_AT1 ... ^ Landlord_NN1 agrees_VVZ that_CST without_IW the_AT prior_JJ consent_NN1 of_IO Tenant_NN1 (_(which_DDQ consent_NN1 shall_vM not_xx be_vBI unreasonably_RR withheld_vvN)_) it_ppH1 shall_vM not_xx seek_vvI any_DD change_NN1 in_II the_AT zoning_NN1 ordinances_NN2 or_CC land_NN1 use_NN1 category_NN1 applicable_JJ to_II the_AT Prémises_NNZ and_CC Landlord_NN1 agrées_VVZ to_TO cooperate_VVI with_IW Tenant_NN1 ,_, at_II Tenant_NN1 's_GE expense_NN1 ,_, in_II any_DD effort_NN1 by_II Tenant_NN1 to_TO oppose_VVI any_DD changes_NN2 in_II the_AT present_JJ zoning_NN1 ordinancés_NN2 or_CC land_NN1 use_NN1 category_NN1 applicablé_JJ to_IĨ the_AT Premises_NN2 ._. ^ Section_NÑ1 3_MC . Terms_NN2 ._. ^ The_AT Premises_NN2 are_VBR leased_vvN for_IF (_(a_ZZ1)_) an_AT1 initial_JJ term_NN1 (_(the_AT "_'

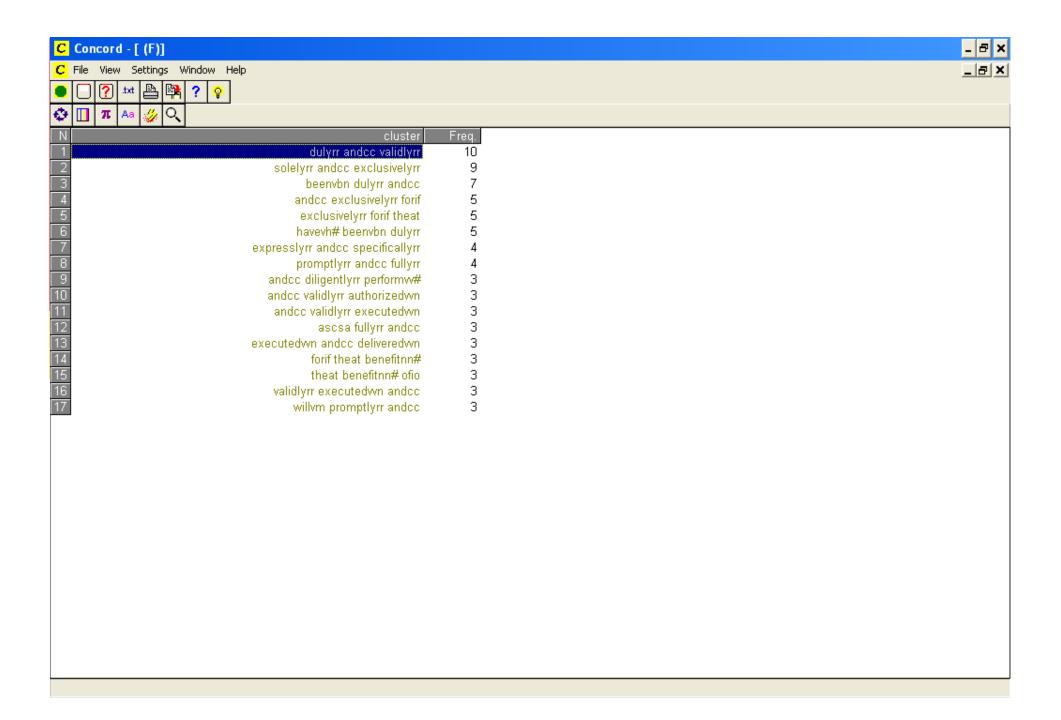






_ & ×





Selecting binomials from 'clusters'

- o duly and validly
- o solely and exclusively
- o expressly and specifically
- o promptly and fully

Methodology - synthesis

Identifying binomials in English



Prima facie translation



Examining greater context



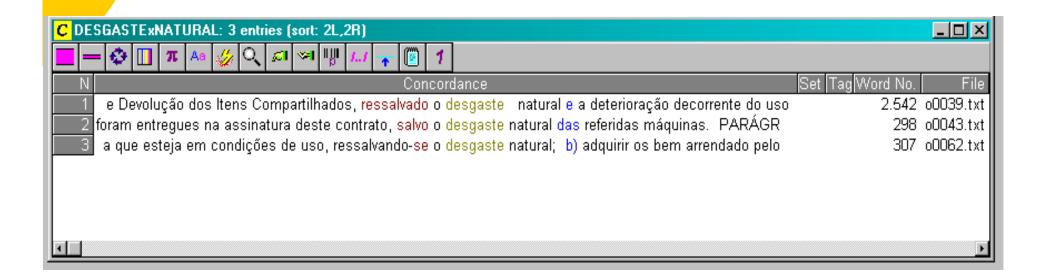
Determining a Correspondent

Concordance lines for wear and tear

C WEARxANDxTEAR: 14 entries (sort: 2L,2R)		_
N Concordance	Set Tag Word No.	File
er's execution of this Agreement, reasonable wear and tear and loss by casualty excepte	4.732	o0059.txt
ame condition as at the commencement. Fair wear and tear of these items is excepted j) T	620	o0014.txt
in good working order and condition, ordinary wear and tear except. So long as the Loan	6.280	o0032.txt
4 d on the Effective Date, ordinary wear and tear and damage from an	20.324	o0058.txt
s" condition as of the Effective Date, ordinary wear and tear between the Effective Date and	19.300	o0058.txt
rmitted or required hereby, except for ordinary wear and tear, and except as otherwise provi	11.861	o0004.txt
good repair and condition, except for ordinary wear and tear, and will take all action and will	2.996	o0004.txt
tion and repair as on the date hereof, ordinary wear and tear and damage due to a cas	9.789	o0058.txt
ondition as specified in the said Inventory (fair wear and tear and damage by the Insured Ri	936	o0019.txt
10 d repair, condition and working order, ordinary wear and tear resulting from proper use there	3.990	o0053.txt
11 r, and are in good working order, reasonable wear and tear excepted. 3.7. Cer	4.632	o0057.txt
12 k of loss of Property at its premises, ordinary wear and tear excepted. Supplier shall maint	8.465	o0050.txt
13 as at the commencement of the Tenancy (fair wear and tear and damage by the Insured Ri	1.194	o0019.txt
any parts which become defective due to fair wear and tear (except for light bulbs and elec	3.885	o0019.txt
▼		F

Looking for a translation

Desgaste Natural



Identifying Language Patterns

- 1- Wear and tear
- Always preceded by an adjective: fair, natural, ordinary, reasonable
- O Phrases:

"except for ordinary wear and tear"

"ordinary wear and tear excepted"

2 - Desgaste natural

o Phrases:

"salvo o desgaste natural"

"ressalvado o desgaste natural"

Classifying Binomials for Translation Purposes

Classifying Binomials

So far we have observed 3 categories, which we have named:

redundant - made up of quasi-synonyms

e.g. true and correct

specific - made up of technical terms

e.g. husband and wife

Redundant Binomials

- o are in disuse and ought to be avoided
- o cause a lot of construction and translation problems

E.g.

- (a) to have and hold
- (b) each and all
- (c) aid and abet
- (d) null and void
- (e) cease and desist
- (f) give, devise and bequeath

Specific Binomials

cannot be avoided, ought to be translated according to the appropriate language patterns.

E.g.

except for fair wear and tear

>>>

ressalvado o desgaste natural

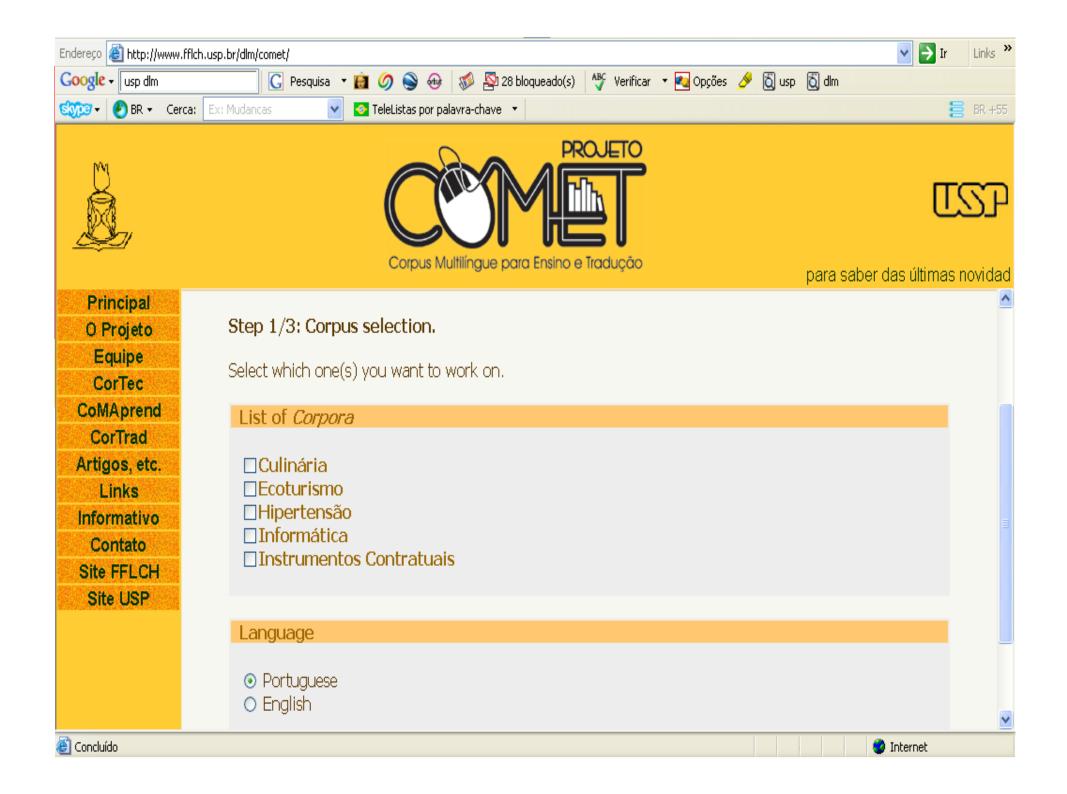
Concluding remarks

- There are different kinds of binomial units
- Translation strategy will depend on that
- They are a feature of English Law language
- But not of Brazilian Portuguese
- To translate Legal Language into Legal Language

Related Projects

 COMET - Corpus Multilíngüe para Ensino e Tradução - Multilingual Corpus for Teaching and Translation

 CorTec - Corpora Técnicos - Technical Corpora http://www.fflch.usp.br/dlm/comet/



Thank you for your attention.

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Please visit our website:

http://www.fflch.usp.br/dlm/comet/

