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# **Decoding Patterns of Suffix Substitution in the Formation of Spanish Words**

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## **Abstract**

This paper is a continued exploration of sustained words which could alternatively be present in both Spanish and English dictionaries with some edified variations on the bases of cognate rules to fulfil its aims; its compilation must include cultural differences, the phonological, the syntactic and the semantic difference. Second-language students usually use various strategies in learning second language. This study is an attempt to understand and predict patterns of word formation from English to Spanish. In doing so, the study has come up with six generalized patterns based on which one can form Spanish words from their counterparts on English.

## **Introduction**

I have searched for sustained words which could alternatively be present in both Spanish and English dictionaries with some edified variations on the bases of cognate rules to fulfil its aims; its compilation must include cultural differences, the phonological, the syntactic and the semantic difference. Second-language students usually use various strategies in learning second language. It is concerned with cognitive learning bearing mental lexicons of speakers of Semitic languages, Spanish and English. On the basis of lexical connections between translation equivalents represented in the cognitive system of Spanish and English bilingual, I suggest that cognate words that have phonological overlap can influence the recognition of translation equivalents. I review documented language literature and that lead to the same conclusion with the help of twenty-five charted rules. The conclusion of my work was that, the strength of the lexical associations between translation equivalents is influenced not only by the frequency of concomitant use but rather by their cognate status.

In a sense, English and Spanish are cousins, as they have a common ancestor, known as Indo-European. And sometimes, English and Spanish can even seem closer than cousins because English has adopted many words from French, a sister language to Spanish.

The difference between English and Spanish Alphabet: Spanish uses the Latin alphabet. The vowels can take an acute accent, and there is the additional letter ñ. When spelling English words or writing them from the teacher's dictation, beginning Spanish students may make mistakes with the English vowels a, e, i.

Also Spanish is spoken at 7.82 syllables per second, whereas English is spoken at 6.19 syllables per second. It follows, then, that Spanish is about 25% faster than English. Therefore, a Spanish-language equivalent to a 300-word English document will be about 50 or 100 words longer.

A cognate is a word that comes from the same origin as a word from a different language. Cognates between languages usually have similarities in spelling, pronunciation, and meaning. This means that someone who speaks English and knows the word "punctual" would be able to understand the meaning of the Spanish word "puntual" even if they're completely unfamiliar with Spanish. This paper will enlist what all cognates exist, some examples of them, and how they can be helpful in learning a variety of words.

To ease the learning of Spanish cognates, I have organized this document by listing Spanish Cognate Rules by word endings. There are a number of rules on word endings although these rules are not applicable in every single case. They can, however, be taken as general guidelines for understanding and forming cognates. Each rule is followed by a list of words that follow the rule. The lists are just a representative example of how the rule is applied. These rules are only applicable to the specific word form (i.e. verb, noun, adjective, etc.) indicated in the description of the rule.

## **Research Objective**

Decoding Patterns of Suffix Substitution in the Formation of Spanish words.

## **Research Question**

What are the patterns of word formation in Spanish from English?

## Literature Review

According to Simeon Potter's and David Crystal's (2019) article; "English belongs to the Indo-European family of languages and is therefore related to most other languages spoken in Europe and western Asia from Iceland to India. The parent tongue, called Proto-Indo-European, was spoken about 5,000 years ago by nomads believed to have roamed the southeast European plains. Germanic, one of the language groups descended from this ancestral speech, is usually divided by scholars into three regional groups: East (Burgundian, Vandal, and Gothic, all extinct), North (Icelandic, Faroese, Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish), and West (German, Dutch [and Flemish], Frisian, and English). Though closely related to English, German remains far more conservative than English in its retention of a fairly elaborate system of inflections. Frisian, spoken by the inhabitants of the Dutch province of Friesland and the islands off the west coast of Schleswig, is the language most nearly related to Modern English. Icelandic, which has changed little over the last thousand years, is the living language most nearly resembling Old English in grammatical structure."

According to Rebecca Posner's and Marius Sala's (2019) article; "Spanish is also known (particularly in Latin America, but increasingly in Spain itself) as Castilian, after the dialect from which modern standard Spanish developed. That dialect arose in Cantabria in the 9th century around the town of Burgos in north-central Spain (Old Castile) and, as Spain was reconquered from the Moors, spread southward to central Spain (New Castile) around Madrid and Toledo by the 11th century. In the late 15th century, the kingdoms of Castile and Leon merged with that of Aragon, and Castilian became the official language of all of Spain. The regional dialects of Aragon, Navarra, Leon, Asturias, and Santander were crowded out gradually and today survive only in secluded rural areas. Galician (a language with many similarities to Portuguese), spoken in northwestern Spain, and Catalan, spoken in eastern and northeastern Spain, were also much reduced but began a resurgence in the late 20th century. The dialect of Spanish used in Arab-occupied Spain before the 12th century was called Mozarabic. A remarkably archaic form of Spanish with many borrowings from Arabic, it is known primarily from Mozarabic refrains (called *kharjahs*) added to Arabic and Hebrew poems."

In Research Paper of *English-Spanish Cognates: According To Grammatical Rules Related To Word Ending's* (2015); they have stated Cognates are a great way to learn English and Spanish. Cognates are words in Spanish and English that share the same Latin and/or Greek root, are very similar in spelling and have the same or similar meaning. About 90% of Spanish cognates have the same meaning in English. This similarity provides a built-in vocabulary base that transfers over when learning Spanish vocabulary. In a technical sense, two words that have a common origin are cognates. Most often, cognates are words in two languages that have a common etymology and thus are similar or identical.

They have identified twenty-nine Cognate rules either by removing word endings in English like "ant" "ary" "ate" "ble" "ct" "ence" "ic" "id" "ile" "ism" "ist" "ive" "ly" "ment" "nce" "nt" "ous" "ty" "y" and adding "ante" "ario" "ar" "ble" "cto" "encia" "ico" "ido" "il" "ismo" "ista" "ivo" "mente" "mento" "encia" "nte" "oso" "idad" "ia or io" in Spanish, respectively or by finding identical word ending like "al" "ar" "or" in English ends by adding "al" "ar" "or" to the word endings in Spanish, respectively. Sometimes word endings in English like "e" "ify" "t" has several word endings like "e, ar, ir" "ify, ificar" "tar, tir" in Spanish, respectively.

I have discovered six new set patterns for cognate word endings converting English words into Spanish, except "e" which has additional "o" ending in Spanish other than pre-existing "e, ar, ir"

## Findings

### Pattern-1: **-ing> ando**

This pattern implies that an English words containing -ing suffix will be replaced by- ando in the formation of Spanish words, it shows a pattern of Present Continuous action even in Spanish; conjugation for such words changes to “ando” removing “ar” “er” “ir” from their word endings as shown in the following table no-1.

**Table-1**

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>SPANISH</b>
Situating	Situando
Integrating	Integrando
Denoting	Denotando
Torturing	Torturando
Separating	Separando
Imagining	Imaginando
Entering	Entrando
Appreciating	Apreciando
Conceptualizing	Conceptualizando
Commercialising	Comercializando
Industrialising	Industrializando
Articulating	Articulando
Experimenting	Experimentando
Administrating	Administrando
Celebrating	Celebrando
Decorating	Decorando
Evaporating	Evaporando

**Pattern-2: -age> –aje**

This pattern implies that an English words containing –age suffix will be replaced by- aje in the formation of Spanish words, Words found under this pattern are mostly noun as shown in the following table no-2.

**Table-2**

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>SPANISH</b>
Pillage	Pillaje
Pupilage	Pupilaje
Foliage	Follaje
Intertillage	Intertilaje
Libertinage	Libertinaje
Borage	Borraja
Language	Lenguaje
Plumage	Plumaje
Voltage	Voltaje
Sabotage	Sabotaje
Personage	Personaje
Garage	Garaje

**Pattern-3: –e > –o**

This pattern implies that an English words containing –e suffix will be replaced by- o in the formation of Spanish words, Words found under this pattern show that some words are mono-syllabic and some have a presence of letter ‘v’ like “Universe” as shown in the following table no-3.

**Table-3**

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>SPANISH</b>
Globe	Globo
Native	Nativo
Unique	único
Tone	Tono
Universe	Universo

Abortive	Abortivo
Active	Activo
Pole	Polo
Divine>	Divino
Elective	Electivo
Site	Sitio
Accumulative	Acumulativo
Accelerative	Acelerativo
Articulative	Articulado

**Pattern-4: –er> –ador**

This pattern implies that an English words containing –er suffix will be replaced by- ador in the formation of Spanish words, Words found under this pattern are characteristics or attributes endowing words as shown in the following table no-4.

**Table-4**

ENGLISH	SPANISH
Implanter	Implantador
Idealizer	Idealizador
Humanizer	Humanizador
Organizer	Organizador
Vaporizer	Vaporizador
Vocalizer	Vocalizador
Analyzer	Analizador
Atomizer	Atomizador
Ionizer	Ionizador
Realizer	Realizador
Memorizer	Memorizador
Legalizer	Legalizador

**Pattern-5: –ted> –ado**

This pattern implies that an English words containing –ted suffix will be replaced by- ado in the formation of Spanish words, Words under this pattern denotes completion in action and even in Spanish –ado is used in past participle by dropping “ar” “er” “ir” from their infinitive verb as shown in the following table no-5.

**Table-5**

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>SPANISH</b>
Complicated	Complicado
Abbreviated	Abreviado
Aberrated	Aberrado
Alerted	Alertado
Lyrated	Lirado
Voted	Votado
Animated	Animado
Agitated	Agitado
Elevated	Elevado
Gestated	Gestado
Molested	Molestado
Activated	Activado

**Pattern-6 –ty>–idad**

This pattern implies that an English words containing –ty suffix will be replaced by- idad in the formation of Spanish words, Words found under this pattern are all nouns as shown in the following table no-6.

**Table-6**

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>SPANISH</b>
Ability	Habilidad
Activity	Actividad
Adversity	adversidad

Atrocity	atroc <b>idad</b>
authority	autor <b>idad</b>
capacity	capac <b>idad</b>
continuity	continuid <b>ad</b>
curiosity	curios <b>idad</b>
density	Dens <b>idad</b>
dignity	dignid <b>ad</b>
eccentricity	excentric <b>idad</b>
electricity	electric <b>idad</b>
entity	entid <b>ad</b>
eternity	etern <b>idad</b>
ethnicity	etnic <b>idad</b>

## Conclusion

I have discovered that though the words of English and Spanish may have cultural differences, phonological, syntactic and the semantic difference but by at least providing cognates: we will be able to translate and get a gist out of what the other person is trying to speak, though their intention for the usage of that words may sometimes differ but it will be very useful for a primary passage of communication and in inculcating an interest to learn that language; with the help of an innate bearing of mental lexicon i.e. via Ferdinand de Saussure's Semiotic triangle.

To sum up the study has achieved a set goal of decoding patterns of word endings; the study has come up with six patterns of suffix conversion from English to Spanish, they are:-

1. Words ending in "ing" change to "ando"
2. Words ending in "age" change to "aje"
3. Words ending in "e" change to "o"
4. Words ending in "er" change to "ador"
5. Words ending in "ted" change to "ado"
6. Words ending in "ty" change to "idad"

Since the outcome of this study is based on a limited data of English-Spanish words, this study is wide open for future research on the stated theme.



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