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Research Institute of U.S. Spanish Signs Agreement with Spanish University

The Agreement with the European University of the Atlantic will develop a bilingual corpus of United States Spanish to foster effective communication in the United States.

New York, New York, May 2, 2022 – The Research Institute of United States Spanish (RIUSS) and the European University of the Atlantic (UNEAT) have agreed to collaborate on research to promote clear, effective communication in Spanish in the United States.

New York City-based nonprofit RIUSS and UNEAT, located in Santander, Spain, will create a novel English-Spanish parallel corpus and a lexicographical resource of the most widely used translation-based Spanish terms in the United States. The research responds to the reality and recognition of the US-Spanish variant within the confines of public discourse.

America’s Spanish speakers have backgrounds from all Spanish-speaking countries, mainly Latin America. Consequently, effective public communication requires the use of terms readily understood by all in a country where English influences Spanish lives in daily contact.

Per the Agreement, graduate students of translation at UNEAT will conduct research as part of their degree requirements. Two RIUSS academicians specializing in English to Spanish translation will supervise their work. The project will run for the first UNEAT academic year (2021-2022), and the Agreement may be renewed for equal periods.

Once it reaches a usability level, the English-Spanish parallel corpus will be shared widely with federal, state and local government agencies, academic institutions, translator and interpreter professional associations, and the United States media. The goals are to build awareness of the criticality of effective translation-based public communication and foster the use of “plain language” that all can understand.

“UNEAT is the ideal partner for RIUSS to conduct this joint research,” said Leticia Molinero, President of the RIUSS board of directors. “We are greatly impressed by the academic and linguistic credentials of the UNEAT team and know that our work significantly advances the missions of both organizations. This collaboration will greatly benefit persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in the United States.”

The Academic Head of Translation and Interpreting and Applied Language at UNEAT, Araceli Alonso, stated that “collaborating with RIUSS is a great opportunity both for the teachers and the students, as it gives us an incredible opportunity to observe the real needs of translation practice in the United States and learn from expert translators and linguists. Students will get to know the requirements to translate in the United States context while enhancing their skills to develop an authentic corpus-based lexicographical research project.”

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