Abstract
Drafting and interpreting legal texts at an international level constitutes an imperative need in itself, especially within the scope of transnational commercial agreements. The problem lies in the fact that every legal system has its own kind of language, as a direct consequence of the peculiarity of its own sources and hermeneutic procedures. Specifically, the language of American contract law which has a deep influence on the way international trade agreements are drafted presents a variety of lexical hues that very often make them untranslatable into Spanish. This is especially true of those terms called false cognates or false friends, technical words whose Latin origin and similarity to Spanish make them more dangerous when analyzed. Precisely, creating a paradigm by means of which these terms could be studied and explained is the aim of the work at hand. To the very least, we would like to make translators and linguists aware of the difficulties of this area of specialized discourse.

Keywords
Legal interpretation, legal construction, contract terminology, contractual discourse, legal translation.