Bilingual academic translation for a book on Mexican communities in the United States

i. CLIENT

Mexico(s) in the United States” is a popular academic book that documents, state by state, the presence of Mexican communities across the U.S., combining narrative analysis with official statistics, data tables, and graphs in each of its chapters. Its aim is to reach a broad audience without sacrificing the rigor of the research on which it is based.

Its publication in English required the precise preservation of figures, demographic terminology, and references to official classifications, while maintaining both the accessible tone and the academic rigor of the original text over dozens of chapters.

ii. CHALLENGE

The project required ensuring that the English version maintained accurate official data and figures, terminological consistency throughout a substantial book, and fidelity to the regional characteristics of each state described. Added to this was the challenge inherent in an academic text intended for a broad readership: language accessible to the general reader without sacrificing scholarly rigor, and a constant balance between fidelity to the original Spanish and natural fluency in English.

At the same time, the goal was to leverage the speed of AI-assisted translation on a project of this scale, without sacrificing the expert judgment needed to verify every figure, every official category, and every regional nuance against its corresponding source.

6

REGIONAL CHAPTERS,
EACH WITH MULTIPLE STATES

50 + D.C.

DOCUMENTED NATIONWITDE

500+

TRANSLATED PAGES

iii. SOLUTION

As a professional translation company, **CM Idiomas** designed a hybrid workflow that combines AI technology, specialized linguistic resources, and expert human review at every stage.

In the first phase, the source text was analyzed to build a project-specific glossary and style guide, covering demographic terminology, official categories, and recurring phrases found in each chapter of the book.

Building on that foundation, AI-assisted translation generated a first draft that was consistent in terminology and tone throughout the entire book. That draft was never the end point, but rather the starting point for a multi-layered human review process.

Every figure, official category, and regional detail was verified against its corresponding source—the kind of verification that no automated tool performs on its own.

"While the translation work itself is faster thanks to AI, the work of preparation, supervision, and human review is actually the most meticulous part of the entire process: every pattern that no automated tool could anticipate became a new criterion, applied consistently throughout the book."



iV. TRANSLATION PROCESS

1. TERMINOLOGY EXTRACTION AND APPROVAL

A team extracted specialized terminology from the source text and compiled a glossary, which was validated and approved before translation began.

2. PROJECT STYLE GUIDE

The same team developed a project-specific style guide, defining from the outset the balance between fidelity to the original and fluency in English that the client required.

3. AI-ASSISTED TRANSLATION

An initial draft was generated using AI, based on the glossary and style guide already approved by the project.

4. MULTILEVEL HUMAN REVIEW

A review team verified terminological consistency, cross-checked figures and categories against official sources, and confirmed regional nuances chapter by chapter—updating the project's shared criteria whenever a pattern emerged that no automated tool could have anticipated.

5. ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT REVIEW

A second expert reviewer, independent of the first, examined the material and provided an additional layer of verification.

6. FINAL CONSOLIDATION

Before delivery, the entire book was reviewed as a whole to ensure that no findings from one chapter had been left unapplied in the rest.



V. SEE RESULTS

1. Greater consistency in terminology and style throughout all chapters of the book.

2. Enhanced quality control: discrepancies with official sources were detected and corrected—issues that machine translation alone would not have identified.

3. Processing of a lengthy document in a fraction of the time it would have taken to complete the process entirely by hand.

4. A scalable process that combines speed and rigor, without sacrificing human judgment in any chapter.

5. A book written in fluent English that is accessible to the general reader, faithful to the academic rigor and data of the original, and ready for publication.

