

In a face-to-face class, an English word whose meaning can be confusing and elusive came up. It is a particular term in that it can be considered a **false cognate** or a word which does not share the exact meaning and connotation in English and Spanish. In order to throw light on the differences between the two languages, it felt fit to provide a **translation** for the sake of clarity.

The word was **idiosyncrasy**, and although the direct and obvious translation is *idiosincrasia*, in order to avoid confusion and to clarify the meaning, the teacher preferred to provide the *L1 equivalent*, i.e. **característica particular, manía, rareza** o **maña** in the local dialect.

Below is a sentence quoted in the *Language and Communication* material, and a teacher sentence in the L1 follows it:

Field linguists like David Harrison are more interested in the **idiosyncrasies** that make each language unique and the ways that culture can influence a language's form (Rymer, 2012).

Lingüistas de campo como David Harrison están más interesados en las **características particulares** que hacen que cada idioma sea único y en las maneras en las que la cultura puede influir en la forma de un idioma.

Another teacher-generated equivalent sentence in Spanish is provided right below the following example sentence, to introduce a particular twist in the word's meaning in this different context:

Paul is a nice bloke, and, like anyone else, he has his little **idiosyncracies**.

Paul es un buen tipo, y como cualquier otro, tiene sus pequeñas **manías/rarezas/mañas**.

Rymer, R. (2012) *Vanishing Voices. AKA. The Respect of Mucrow*. National Geographic Magazine. Retrieved on 29/08/17. Available at: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2012/07/vanishing-languages/rymer-text>