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**Argentinean Concrete Block Association (AABH) - Argentinean Portland Cement Institute (ICPA)**
**Small Element Paving Technologists (SEPT)**

# SPANISH-ENGLISH-PORTUGUESE DICTIONARY ON CONCRETE BLOCK PAVING AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES

**MADRID, Germán G.**

Director, SEGMENTA Consulting/Education
Calle 15C Sur No. 29C-221, Ap.601, Medellin, COLOMBIA.
Tel./Fax.: + 57-4-3261187. segmenta@une.net.co

**Summary**

This is a proposal for the production of a Spanish-English-Portuguese Dictionary, on terms and concepts used in concrete block paving and related technologies in order to contribute to a better understanding of documents produced in one of the three languages, and the different variants of those terms in countries where the three languages are spoken.

The result will be systematized so this dictionary can be used for any interested people in their own computer or from any server, quickly and practically.

The above arises as a proposal for a document that will be delivered by the forthcoming International Conference on Paving with concrete pavers in 2012.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The universality of knowledge, provided by the media and the dominance of the English language, is truncated by the existence of dominant languages in certain areas, such as Spanish in almost all Latin American countries, and as the second language in the United States, Portuguese in Brazil, only to mention the situation in the Americas. Additionally there are the variants in common speech for each language in each country and each political, ethnic or culture region.

This has hindered the incorporation of many of documents written in Spanish and Portuguese, to the flow of international information and the access of the non-English speakers to the written documentation access in this language.

The above ads to the problem generated with the migration of workers from Spanish and Portuguese, to English-speaking countries (primarily to the United States), where it is very difficult to identify the terminology to be used in documents and training courses for this workforce in Spanish, by the plurality of terms or local names for objects, activities and concepts in over 15 Spanish-speaking Hispanic countries, not to mention what is happening with the Portuguese-speaking in Brazil.

But for the other two languages, English and the Portuguese, the problems are not smaller because there are also differences between the Portuguese Portugal and the Brazil Portuguese (proportional to those existing between the Spanish in Spain and the Spanish in Latin America) and between the English spoken, understood and written in the United Kingdom, United States, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India, etc., to mention a few examples.

From the linguistic point of view, is does not mean that there as many Spanish languages as countries that speak Spanish, similarly to what happens in those countries speaking English, with

the local variations originated by the evolution of languages, due to natural language enclaves that replace some nouns and verbs; but the structure of the language remains intact.

On the other hand, as long as any human activity, physical or intellectual, acquires particular characteristics, it generates a specific lexicon that it is altered by the already presented reasons in words and terms, but it must keep intact the meaning for all synonyms used in different locations.

At the same time, the meanings or definitions that accompany these words also evolve and need not only to be updated but also unified in order for the different speakers not only to "talk" but also to "understand" the same inside one language and among languages.

## 2. PROPOSAL

The aim is to produce a tool that allows clarifying the basic concepts and equivalences between terms of the each language and among the participating languages. The proposal is a dictionary on concrete block paving and related technologies, including the three dominant languages in the American continent (Spanish, English and Portuguese), and the variation in the English language in countries that speak it with different characteristics. If the evolution of this project allows it, this project could be extended to the Spanish and Portuguese variants with the countries of origin (Spain and Portugal).

To achieve this purpose, there is a series of collaborators that will serve as local agents for gathering the local information for each language and locality. Up to now, they are:

**Spanish**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ▪ Argentina | Gordillo, Timoteo. | AABH |
| ▪ Argentina | Herrera, Claudio. | PCR |
| ▪ Bolivia | Soruco, Rosendo | IBCH |
| ▪ Chile | ...Pending... | |
| ▪ Colombia | Madrid, Germán. | Segmenta |
| ▪ Colombia | Montoya, Lina M. | Indural |
| ▪ Colombia | Ardila, Fabio. | Preconcretos |
| ▪ Colombia | Klahr, Herman. | Blokes |
| ▪ Costa Rrica | Zeledón, José E. | DEHC |
| ▪ Costa Rica | Aguilar, Álvaro | HOLCIM |
| ▪ Costa Rica | Solano, Jorge | ICCYC |
| ▪ Ecuador | ...Pending... | |
| ▪ El Salvador | González, Rafael. | ISCYC |
| ▪ Peru | Atauje, Miguel | UNICON |
| ▪ Peru | Olguín, Arturo | DINO |

**English**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ▪ Australia | …Pendieng… | |
| ▪ South Africa. | Cairns, John | CMA |
| ▪ United Kingdom | Dowson, Allan | |
| ▪ United Kingdom | Knapton, John | |
| ▪ United States | David R. Smith | ICPI. |
| ▪ United States | Steve Jones | Pavetech. |

**Portuguese**

| | |
|---|---|
| ▪ Brazil | Fernandes, Idário. |

- Brazil Oliveira, Claudio ABCP.

If any person is interested in participating in this project or considered that it could develop a line parallel to a different language, please contact the author.

## 3. PROCEDURE

**Basic listing:** It is a list of terms and concepts to be treated. This list is complemented (widened) by circulating among the participants, to have a better coverage of topics. This list is based on several lexicoms or lists published in different documents and standards from the in participating countries, such as the ones produced by [DOWSON, a. j., (2009), ICONTEC,] [(2004) and ICPI AND SMITH, DAVID r. AND (do 200?)].

**Definitions:** For each concept or term, a definition will be discussed to reach a basic definition that could represent the state of the art of the topics and be universal. These definitions must be unique for each language.

**Variants:** Originally there will be a basic term for which participants must provide local variants to be registered by country. According to the differences observed, it is possible that an “unified" or "universal" term be defined, to be used by SEPT at an international level and by participants and their associations at a national or local level.

**Image:** Each term or concept will be accompanied by a picture or ilustration representing it correctly, whenever it is possible.

The image will be unique to each term or concept and for all languages. The definition will also be single, translated to the three languages. The terms will be different for each language and for any location, and do not have to correspond between languages, individually or by number. Figure 1 illustrate this proposa.

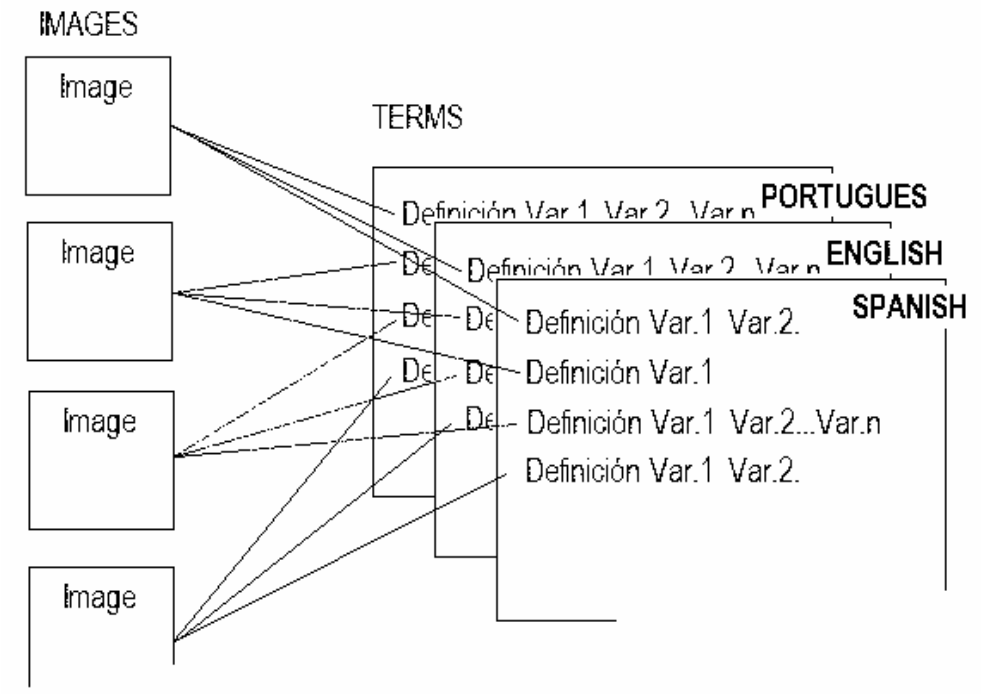


**Figure 1. Scheme of the files for the dictionary and the relationship between components.**

## 4. SYSTEMATIZATION

Once this database is completed, it will be systematized in order to have access to the information in all possible ways, so after typing a word it will appears in language, image and synonyms in each language, i.e. the local variants (see Figure 2). The result could be placed in the page of SEPT and will be delivered to all that of you that wish to use it as a downloadable file.

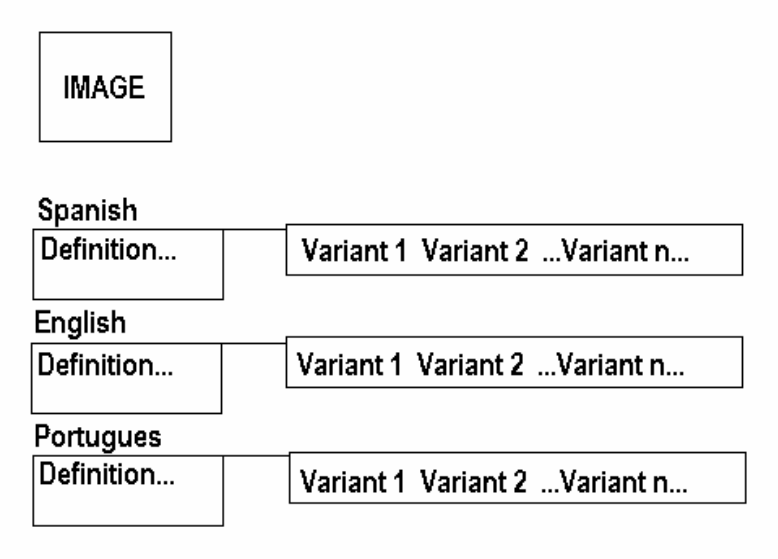


**Table 2. Output page of the information.**

## 5. PARTICIPANTS

It is expected that additionally to the current collaborators, it could be considered the inclusion of other countries where these languages are important as the case of India for English. And if someone finds that it would be important to have an additional language and want to join the project managing this inclusion, he would be welcome.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The above is not a presentation in a traditional manner, but an opportunity to use the channel of the International Conference on Concrete Block Paving to collect wills and ideas on the way how get the most useful results from this project for this and other related technologies community.

## 7. REFERENCES

DOWSON, A. J., (2009). Back-to-basics - Measuring the progress of understanding of over 35 years of the use of concrete block paving in the U.K. Asociación Argentina de Bloques de Hormigón (AABH), Buenos Aires, 2009.

ICONTEC, (2004). Norma Técnica Colombiana NTC 2017 (2004-02-25). Bogotá, ICONTEC, 2004. 38 p. (Segunda Actualización, Editada 2004-03-04).

ICPI AND SMITH, DAVID R. AND (200?). Glossary of terms used in the Production, Design, Construction and Testing of Interlocking Concrete Pavement. Tech Spec No.1. Herndon, ICPI, 200?, 6p.