# Teaching Translation for Professional Purposes at LaGuardia Community College

Ana María Hernández, Ph.D.
Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures
Department of Education and Language
Acquisition

### **General Assumptions**

- \* Anybody who speaks a language can translate from or into that language
  - \* Students do not need to take courses in a language if they already speak the language
  - \* Translation/Interpretation skills can be learned in a few weeks of intensive training
- \* Students do not need to learn Standard if they can communicate in a particular local dialect

#### BICS AND CALP

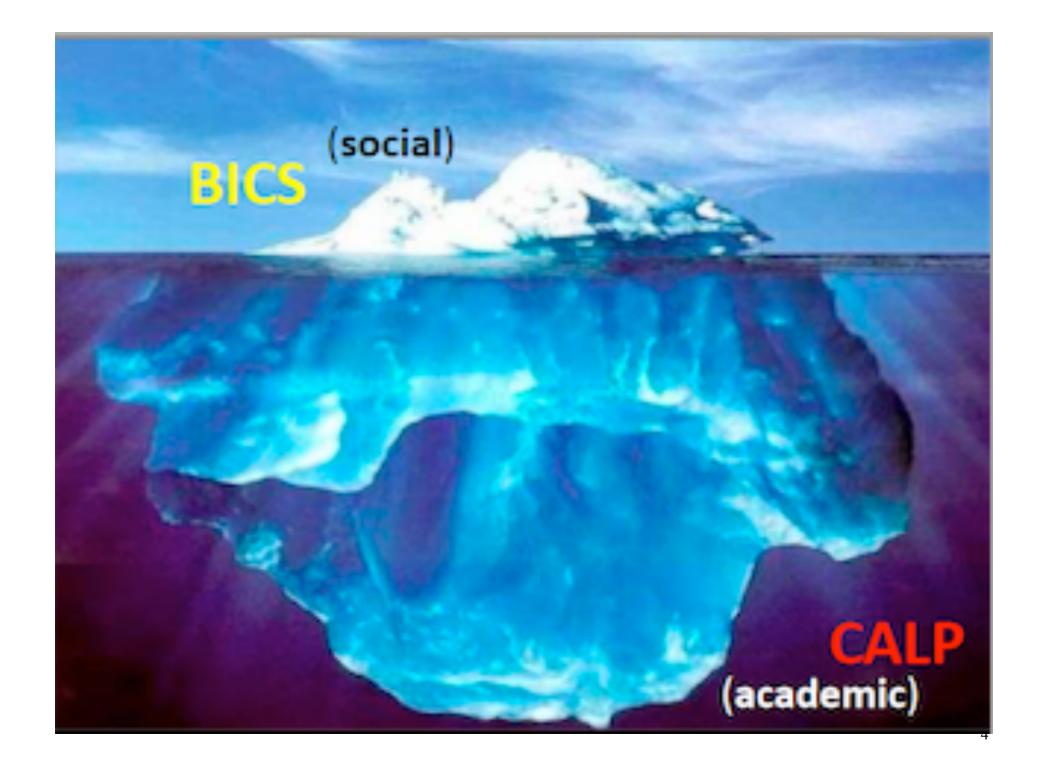
BICS= Basic Interpersonal Communication Strategies (6 months-2 years)

CALP= Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (5 to 7 years)

Well paying translation jobs with career advancement opportunities require CALP

CALP (compare, contrast, evaluate, synthesize) is not acquired in a few weeks of intensive training

https://morethanenglish.edublogs.org/learning-english/
 (Cummins and Krashen)



## What Translators Need to Learn Before They Do Professional Translations

Comparative Grammar: use of articles, the passive voice, syntax in both languages

False Cognates

Linguistic Calques

Academic and professional vocabulary in a variety of fields

Nuance

Cultural context

## How We Assess What Students Learn Before They Transfer to Hunter College

Vocabulary section on midterms and finals in literature (colonial and modern/contemporary) and culture classes

Literary analysis in the capstone, Advanced Spanish Composition

Advanced Spanish Grammar and Usage/English Morphology

Close consultation about how our students perform once they transfer to Hunter College