Contrastive Analysis of some English and French Clause Operations: a Syntactic-Semantic Perspective

Abstract

Linguistic phenomena at the clause level seem to be overlooked in the establishment of translation equivalence (Krzeszowski 1990) between two texts from different languages. This paper carries out a contrastive analysis between some English and French clause operations (inspired from Dutoit 2000, Crystal 2008) from a syntactic and semantic perspective. This contrastive analysis is corpus-based i.e. it is based on a translation corpus (Altenberg and Granger 2002, Nádvorníková 2010) containing some Naomi Alderman's literary works and their French version. The Meaning-Text theory-MTT (Mel'cuk and Milićević 2020) is used for data analysis. Findings suggest that in spite of some syntactic and semantic convergences and divergences in the translation of clause operations, the latter highlights the notion of paraphrase (Milićević 2007), i.e. different ways of conveying an idea. It also clarifies the implementation of inter-linguistic translation phenomena such as universalisms, particularisms and semantic translational recourse. This paper provides both theoretical and methodological insights for contrastive linguistics and these findings may be useful in foreign language teaching as well as in translation.

Key words: clause operations, translation corpus, contrastive Linguistics, paraphrase,

References

- Altenberg, B., et Granger, S., (2002). Recent Trends in Cross-Linguistic Lexical Studies in *Lexis in Contrast. Corpus-Based Approaches*, Altenberg, B., et Granger, S., (ed.). Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamin Publishing Company, pp 1-48.
- Crystal, D., (2008). A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics. Malden USA: Blackwell Publishing, 6th edition.
- Dutoit, D., (2000). Quelques opérations Sens→ Texte et Texte → Sens utilisant une Sémantique Linguistique Universaliste a priori. Thèse, Université de Caen.
- Krzeszowski, P. T., (1990). *Contrasting Languages, the Scope of Contrastive Linguistics*. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Mel'čuk, I. et Milićević, J., (2020). An Advanced Introduction to Semantics, A Meaning-Text Approach.UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Nádvorníková, O., (2010). Les corpus parallèles : l'espace pour l'analyse Contrastive in *Études Romanes de BRNO*.