

The Efficacy of Using State-of-the-art Translation Resources in Translating into a Non-mother Tongue

Nataša Hirci

Department of Translation Studies
Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana University, Slovenia
natasa.hirci(a)guest.arnes.si

ABSTRACT

The thesis addresses the question of the acceptability of translations into a non-mother tongue. It involves a study on two translation tasks undertaken by two groups of third-year undergraduate students of translation at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, all of whom have had at least three years of experience in translating into a non-mother tongue. The study was designed to test the main premise of the thesis maintaining that the application of modern translation tools has a positive impact on the translation process as far as the translators' speed and efficiency is concerned; in addition, it is also argued that the translations where no restriction on the use of translation tools and resources is made are more acceptable to the target audience than those where such restriction is imposed.

Trainee translators were asked to translate two short promotional texts from Slovene, their mother tongue, into English. For Text One, Group 1 was allowed to complete their translations only with the aid of paper resources, while for Text Two, both paper and electronic resources were made available. Reverse conditions applied to Group 2. Students and not professional translators were selected, as we wanted the subjects to be familiar with the state-of-the-art translation tools such as electronic dictionaries and reference materials, online corpora and other online resources, translation memories and similar.

Competent native speakers of English, involved in the teaching of translation and/or linguistics, and professional Slovene translators were asked to complete a questionnaire assessing the benefits of the application of state-of-the-art resources in translation. By triangulating this method with the results obtained by the *Translog* computer programme and *Think-aloud Protocols*, problems concerning the application of modern tools and resources could be ascertained and the acceptability of the given translations established, with the main objective being to identify their impact on the translation process.

While the data obtained by *Translog* and *TAPs* showed no conclusive difference in speed when trainee translators worked with or without all the resources available, and their efficiency seemed to be highly idiosyncratic, the results of the questionnaire assessing the acceptability of selected translations to the target language and target culture community corroborated the main hypothesis that the use of electronic tools has a positive impact on the quality and acceptability of translations into a non-mother tongue.

KEYWORDS: acceptability of translations into a non-mother tongue, state-of-the-art translation resources and technologies, teaching translation, translator training.

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Učinkovitost uporabe sodobnih prevajalskih virov pri prevajanju v nematerni jezik

Nataša Hirci

Oddelek za prevajalstvo

Filozofska fakulteta, Univerza v Ljubljani, Slovenija

nataša.hirci(a)guest.arnes.si

ABSTRACT

Doktorska disertacija se osredotoča na vprašanje sprejemljivosti prevodov iz maternega v nematerni jezik; v njenem osrednjem delu je predstavljena raziskava, v katero sta bili vključeni dve skupini študentov tretjega letnika Oddelka za prevajalstvo Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani. Vsi subjekti, vključeni v raziskavo, so imeli vsaj triletno izkušnje s prevajanjem v nematerni jezik. Z raziskavo smo želeli preveriti hipotezo, da ima aplikacija sodobnih prevajalskih virov in pripomočkov pozitivno vlogo v prevajalskem procesu, še posebej pri prevajalčevi hitrosti in učinkovitosti. Prav tako smo preverjali hipotezo, da so prevodi, pri katerih uporaba prevajalskih virov ni bila omejena, za ciljno publiko sprejemljivejši kot tisti, pri katerih je bila postavljena omejitev.

Bodoči prevajalci so prevajali dve krajši promocijski besedili iz maternega, slovenskega jezika v angleščino. Prvo besedilo je prva skupina prevajalcev prevajala zgolj s pomočjo prevajalskih virov v knjižni obliki, pri prevajanju drugega besedila pa je imela ista skupina na voljo vse vire, tudi elektronske. Za drugo skupino študentov je veljala obratna omejitev. V raziskavo so bili vključeni študenti prevajalstva in ne profesionalni prevajalci, saj smo želeli, da so vsi subjekti raziskave ustrezno seznanjeni z rabo najsodobnejših prevajalskih virov in pripomočkov, vključno z elektronskimi različicami slovarjev in drugih referenčnih virov, s spletnimi korpusnimi in drugimi viri, s pomnilniki prevodov in podobno.

V delu raziskave so usposobljeni domači govorniki angleškega jezika, ki se ukvarjajo s poučevanjem prevajanja in/ali jezikoslovja, in profesionalni prevajalci v Sloveniji izpolnjevali vprašalnik o koristnosti aplikacije sodobnih prevajalskih virov. S triangulacijo te metode z rezultati, ki smo jih pridobili z računalniškim programom *Translog*, in rezultati, ki jih je nudila aplikacija *Protokolov glasnega razmišljanja*, smo analizirali težave, povezane z aplikacijo sodobnih prevajalskih virov, in ugotavljali sprejemljivost izbranih prevodov, pri čemer smo se osredotočali na vpliv sodobnih virov in tehnologij na prevajalski proces.

Rezultati, ki smo jih pridobili s programom *Translog* in z metodo *PGR* niso pokazali vidnejših razlik v hitrosti prevajanja med prevajalci, za katere je veljala omejitev pri rabi virov in tistimi, kjer takšne omejitve ni bilo, učinkovitost prevajalca pa je bila zelo odvisna od posameznika. Rezultati vprašalnika o sprejemljivosti izbranih prevodov pa so jasno potrdili hipotezo, da se predstavnikom ciljnega jezika in kulture zdijo bistveno kakovostnejši in sprejemljivejši tisti prevodi v nematerni jezik, pri katerih raba sodobnih prevajalskih virov ni bila omejena.

KLJUČNE BESEDE: izobraževanje prevajalcev, poučevanje prevajanja, sodobni prevajalski viri in pripomočki, sprejemljivost prevodov v nematerni jezik.