Design and compilation of a literary parallel corpus. Aims and applications

A research project financed by the AUTH Research Committee

Prof. Titika Dimitroulia

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

The concept of the corpus FREL

- Teamwork as the only choice

- A parallel corpus against the suspicion that parallel corpora bring back the "scaring" source text (Kenny, 2001)

- A parallel corpus including Greek translations, because we need Greek corpora

- A literary parallel corpus because we lack of literary bitexts and multitexts including Greek translations

- A fiction/prose parallel corpus for methodological reasons regarding genres and their specificities

The global translation system and the position of a peripheral language as Modern Greek

As all peripheral languages-countries, Greece translates a lot

Number of titles translated					
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
4,373	4,230	4,442	3,789	3,173	2,672
42.5%	40.3%	41.6%	38.8%	34.2%	32.1%

[National Book Center, *The bookmarket in Greece*, 8th edition, 2012]

Translated novels = Greek novels

Number of novels translated by country and language	2009	2010	2011
British & English-language	134	120	117
U.S.A.	152	160	164
French & French-language	82	49	63
Spanish	17	16	9
Spanish-language (Latin America)	16	12	9
Italian	18	19	18
German & German-language	14	14	15
Russian	11	20	19
Swedish	7	3	11
Turkish	3	12	6
Arabic	6	3	5
Portuguese & Brazilian	4	3	5
Serbian	3	1	3
Other languages	28	21	19
TOTAL	492	452	455
Modern Greek	401	443	507

We realize that there is

"a strong demand for foreign fiction, […] a stability despite the general fall of the number of the titles after 2009, at a level that remains comparable to that of the Greek novels

443 in 2010 and

507 in 2011"

Translated fiction has had always an important impact

- On the national literary polysystem and its subsystems (theoretical framework of the systemic and descriptive translation studies – Hermans 1999)

- On the Greek language, although translation is not included in any monolingual Greek corpus till today, while many other languages are (Zanettin 2011)

Why French?

- It remains one of the central languages in the global translation system (Heilbron and Sapiro 2007)
- It is the second stronger language in the Greek translation system (although English keeps by far its hypercentral position with 53% vs 14% of the French)
- Because of its symbolic value (Casanova 1999), very important in Greece, and its role in the formation of the Greek literature
- For reasons concerning language diversity

Synchronic / Diachronic

- Contemporary language and discourse = interaction with monolingual or comparable corpora (literary and non-literary)

- Easier process (more tools, better working)

- COPYRIGHT: due to copyright there is almost impossible to find free literary electronic texts to process, so the publisher's permission is a great gift

[And I thank them again all for this permission and trus, as we all know very well that data is precious]

- Texts published after 1974

Let me name them here...

- Patakis
- Govostis
- Opera
- Indiktos
- Polis
- Agra

And all those who will give us their translations in the future for research purposes

Design criteria

- **Small-scale corpus** due to objective constraints

- **Full-text** corpus / real texts operating in real literary polysystems

- Effort for **representativeness/balance** (Zanettin) in many aspects of the book selection:

a. Books published after 1974 (Metapolitefsi literary and publishing polysystem)

b. Covering 3 centuries (18th-20th)

c. All types of translators (established writers, academics, professionals)

d. Different genres (only prose and no children literature)

e. Different aesthetics (realism, modernism, avant-garde)

Additional criteria

- more than one works of some translators in order to examine style

- some non fiction texts also, in order to make some comparisons - in an experimental manner (in and out the main corpus)

- Openness of the corpus, so that it can be co-examined with monolingual and comparable corpora and further developed in many directions

- Open accessed on the internet for the enhancement of the research

Some of the works

- Voltaire, *Zadig*
- Alexandre Dumas, *Les trois mousquetaires*
- Alain Fournier, *Le grand Meaulnes*
- Alfred Jarry, *Ubu roi*
- Hervé Le Tellier, *Assez parlé d' amour*
- Gilbert Lascaut, *Le petit chaperon rouge, partout*

Some of the translators

- Achilleas Kyriakidis, established writer and filmmaker (also editor in some works)
- Sofia Dionysopoulou, writer and translator
- Lida Palladiou, professional translator
- Yiannis Konstantinou, professional translator
- Titika Dimitroulia, academic and professional translator

The corpus use
Descriptive translation studies / Literary studies

Attested and authentic language production for the study of:

- the translated discourse and its special features (pros and cons for universals of translation, explicitation, normalization etc.)

- the translated discourse compared with original discourse (monolingual literary corpora and broader ones)

- the language system versus the collective organization of discourse and the style

- the genre conventions and their translation

- The difference between different types of translators
- Original writing and translation: experiments on authorship attribution in translation (Papadiamantis' project with Politou-Marmarinou and Mikros, see http://www.blod.gr/lectures/Pages/viewlecture.aspx?LectureID=185)
- The gender and its translation
- The paratext
- Translation as intertext and intertexts in translation (Venuti)

Theoretical preoccupations

- Applying the **triangulation** in translation and literary studies through corpora (combining quantitative and qualitative analysis in order to cross-check data)

- From an hypothesis to remarks and conclusions and vice versa

The aims and the tools

- Quantitative methods of literary analysis : word frequency, word collocation, part-of-speech

- Exploring the parallel corpus in both literary and translation didactics

- Translator's education: extracting data on the process of translation and promoting the translation quality

- Literary analysis in class: the pre-digital dreams come true (massive process of data and new methods).

- Tracing the language change in the literary field

Perspectives

- Work in progress

- Multitext formation (with Italian literary texts)

- Comparable corpus

- Synchronic and diachronic perspectives (integration of older texts of katharevousa)

- More genres

- Scenarios for the parallel corpus use in translation and literary class

The team

Let me introduce now to the team with which we work in this project

Vassiliki Foufi

Eleni Kogitsidou

Thanasis Mavropoulos

Olympia Tsaknaki

who will present the tools used and the difficulties met in the compilation of the corps.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH AGAIN