

Interference and Standardisation in Trainees Translators' Renditions of Scientific Texts: Applying Toury's Descriptive-Hermeneutic Model of Translation Performance

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The systemic contrastive analysis of translation shifts in selected textual instances allows the examination of translational behaviour on the level of sociolects and of certain features of the translation act, in terms of both process and function, and on the level of the translation product as such.

Such a systemic view of translation as envisaged by Toury's seminal work on the probabilistic laws of systemic interference and growing standardisation is the focus of the proposed paper, which presents a synchronic analysis of the lexico-semantic and stylistic performance of trainee translators in technical and scientific discourse, in the EN-EL language pair. More specifically, the research reported presents the findings from analysing a parallel corpus two original EN technical documents and 80 (2x40) translations into Greek. The choices of the trainee translators are recorded in semantically and stylistically delineated chunks of text and analysed on their respective lexico-semantic and stylistic levels (Batsalia & Sella 2010). The translation choices are then codified on two classification levels: one schematising marked translational deviations from registrerial norms (in terms of field, tenor and mode; cf. Halliday 1978) and thus codifying translation "errors" based on the initial error matrix provided by the Institute of Linguists (IoL DiplTrans, 2006); and one positing instances of lexical interference, syntactic interference and standardisation. The findings on the two levels are annotated in GATE (gate.ac.uk) and matched against one another. Moreover, the paper combines the statistical presentation of data from the above classification schemata with the explication devices (targeted translation comments) presented by the trainee translators, with the aim to further explore the process textual and linguistic mechanisms of interference and standardisation.

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