

Semantic stability in translation: A behavioral-profile analysis of the semantic field of inchoativity in original Dutch and Dutch translated from English and French.

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During the last two decades, research within corpus-based translation studies (CBTS) has been focusing on the question how translated texts differ from non-translated texts, but the bulk of these studies incorporate English as at least one component. Despite a vast research paradigm on the influence of source-language on translation (e.g. [1], [2]), a question that still arises, is whether these findings may be influenced by the omnipresence of English in corpus-based research. Therefore, the main objective of this paper is to explore possible lexicosemantic translational effects in texts translated from English and from French. Previous research [3] found subtle semantic differences between original Dutch and Dutch translated from English and in the present study we want to verify whether those semantic differences are due to source-language interference from English, or whether they can be extrapolated to being more general tendencies of translated texts. We adopt a cognitive-inspired method, viz. behavioral profiling, to explore possible lexicosemantic translational effects in the semantic field of *beginnen*. Behavioral profiling is a usage-based method that aims at capturing the complexity of word meaning by looking at contextual features of the words under study [4], [5]. The obtained enriched corpus data are subjected to multiple correspondence analysis (MCA) and discriminant classification trees and consequently the behavioral profile of the lexemes in original Dutch and Dutch translated from English and French can be analyzed. The visualization obtained by the MCA can display even very subtle changes in a semantic field, and thus enable us to thoroughly compare the semantic structure of non-translated and language translated from English and French. The classification trees help us to gain more insight in the onomasiological choices within the three varieties by displaying the ID-tags that are decisive when choosing between near-synonyms. By combining the two methods, we hope to investigate whether the found differences are language-specific and to provide more cognitive and more general explanations for differences between different language varieties.

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