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A Corpus-Based Approach Towards Translation of Author-Specific Neologisms in Literary Texts

Parallel corpus and corpus-based methods can be seen as a way to analyze how Lithuanian literature is translated into English. Ongoing research in the field of Descriptive translation studies has been concentrating on the features pervading translated texts and possible reasons for that (Toury 1995; Baker 1993). One of such proposed features of translation is the law of growing standardization, seen as a tendency to modify textual relations of original text in favor of more habitual options for the target repertoire (Toury, 1995: 268). The feature is assumed to be especially prevalent in minor-to-major languages' translation direction. The major aim of this presentation is to investigate whether lexical standardization is a dominant feature of translation in a specially compiled parallel corpus of Lithuanian-English prose works (LECOP) consisting of 1,7 million words. The object of the research is author-specific neologisms - stylistically marked and contextually dependent words which are important for the overall understanding and appreciation of the text. The retrieved 166 author-specific neologisms are grouped in terms of their morphology, origin, meaning and visual realization. Corpus-based methods, qualitative and quantitative analyses of the data reveal that although standardization dominates the translation of author-specific neologisms in LECOP it is not equally distributed along the distinguished categories of author-specific words.