Abstract

Title: Translated Czech and Its Characteristics
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Despite the fact that translated literature accounts for more than one third of all written publications in the Czech Republic, Czech in translations has not yet been systematically analyzed from a quantitative point of view. The main objective of this corpus-based dissertation is to identify characteristic features of translated Czech compared to Czech in original, i.e. non-translated texts. The analysis was based on a large monolingual comparable corpus Jerome, created for the purposes of this study. It includes both fiction and non-fiction texts and its design reflects the real Czech situation regarding the translations' source languages, i.e. translations from English prevail. The research was inspired by the theory of translation universals (typical linguistic features common to any translated text) and focused mainly on simplification, convergence and general frequency characteristics, including parts-of-speech distribution and n-gram analysis.

The findings have supported the hypothesis that translated Czech, as reflected in the Jerome corpus, is different from the non-translated Czech in terms of higher degree of simplification, convergence and distinct lexical patterning. The differences, however, are not so striking, as we may have expected, especially when compared to the distinction between fiction and non-fiction, which proved to be more prominent and recognizable based on the carried-out tests.

To conclude, translated Czech certainly has some specific features resulting probably both from an interference effect and the very process of translation. Due to the data limitations and the Jerome corpus design it is impossible to claim these features to be universal; they only apply to the translated Czech as a common reader encounters it, i.e. dominated by the translations from English. The analysis has also highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of specific types of corpora used in translation studies, and suggested the avenues for further research.

Keywords: language of translation, Czech, corpus-based translation studies, translation universals, simplification, convergence