

ABSTRACT

This final project provides a parole analysis of vrais amis (true counterparts) in current French and English. To this end a specialized English-French translation corpus was assembled, composed of three subcorpora equal in length, namely Religious, Political and Fiction discourse, amounting altogether to approximately 60,000 words. With the help of the AntConc instrument, true friends employed in the corpus were generated, here conceived of as a register-specific phenomenon exclusively. Using the frequency criteria, a central set of 64 most frequent counterparts was delineated. These central counterparts, marked by (almost) identical frequencies, identical contexts and the same registers, were subjected to a multiaspectual analysis, scrutinizing the pronunciation, spelling, word classes, share of derivation, and frequency of types and tokens. Since English proved to be the borrowing language in all instances, the research also indirectly addressed the degree of their integration in the English words stock by reference to frequency bands. For most of the researched aspects, three zones of counterparts were identified, namely those exhibiting identity, close similarity and relative difference. As a result, employing the Theory of Centre and Periphery (Daneš 1966), we may arrange true counterparts along an imaginary scale ranging from identity to relative difference in nearly all the criteria. The final project includes an alphabetically arranged list of all true counterparts pertinent to the individual subcorpora. The tendencies detected may enhance the current understanding of similarities between the two languages and particularly facilitate the process of their acquisition.

KEYWORDS

true counterparts (vrais amis), English, French, corpus, translation, register, multiaspectual analysis