

POPULAR SCIENCE SUMMARY (1 page) - ENGLISH

Repetition in translation: a multi-factorial descriptive and explanatory study

When we (i.e. Polish readers) read native-English texts, be they press articles or literary novels, we are sometimes surprised by the frequent repetition of the same words and phrases. For example, in the English press articles or literary novels it is conspicuous that when quoting someone's utterance a reporting verb *said* is very often repeated one after another in a narrative sequence. In the Polish texts, on the other hand, a distinct pattern emerges: we typically find a rich assortment of reporting verbs, such as *powiedział, stwierdził, dodał, podkreślił, zaznaczył* etc. Drawing from this observation, we can put forward a claim that the Polish language (with its peculiar stylistic conventions), and potentially other Slavic languages as well, might exhibit less tolerance of repetition when juxtaposed with English. There is also anecdotal evidence suggesting that Polish learners of primary and secondary schools have been traditionally asked to consult thesauri while composing essays during Polish language classes. This advice most probably stems from the prevailing notion that repetition is synonymous with an impoverished style in Polish, a belief that is deeply ingrained in the pedagogical and literary landscape.

The above observations also hold significance in the context of translation as every translator aims to ensure that his or her translation aligns with the norms and conventions of the target language. There are also other potential factors that impact the ways translation is shaped in the target language, including the style of the original text, individual translator's style, variation across text types and genres, changing norms of translation in time (foreignization, domestication, ornamentation etc.), typological differences between languages and, nowadays, the role of computer technologies, in particular neural machine translation and conversational artificial intelligence, or AI-assisted tools in general.

Apart from providing a comprehensive theoretical overview of repetition in translation (from both literary and linguistic perspectives on style), in this empirical study we aim to describe the degree of repetition in translation as well as to explain its underlying factors. Such studies have not been conducted in Poland (i.e. on translation into Polish) yet. Using a blend of quantitative and qualitative methods, we will primarily focus on the translation of reporting verbs, that is, on how they are translated from English into Polish (and into other Slavic languages) in literary texts and press articles (and on why they are translated as they are). Thanks to the frequent occurrence of dialogues and verbatim quotes, literary novels and press articles provide suitable research material for a study like this one. We will use so-called parallel corpora, i.e. large collections of original and translated texts running into millions of words, from which we will extract the units of analysis (i.e. source-language items and their target language equivalents with corresponding co-text). In order to provide both descriptive and explanatory findings, we will use descriptive and inferential statistics as well as multifactorial methods, such as Poisson regression or negative binomial regression, to name but a few, so that we pinpoint precisely those factors that impact the degree of repetition in translation.

We believe that the findings will allow us to better understand the role of repetition in translation, shedding light on its intricate underlying factors. We also hope that our study and its methodology grounded primarily in corpus linguistics and multifactorial statistics will inspire further research on repetition in translation, especially in the English-Polish language pair, using diverse text types and genres as a research material. Finally, the findings may have pedagogical implications in that they may allow us to improve translation strategies used by trainee and professional translators to deal with repetition, making them more sensitive to the stylistic effects of the original.