

Daniel Dejica

Thematic Management
and
Information Distribution
in
Translation



EDITURA POLITEHNICA

**THEMATIC MANAGEMENT AND
INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION IN
TRANSLATION**

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Abbreviations used

AIU	Auxiliary Information Universe
C	Connector
CD	Communicative dynamism
EIU	Extended Information Universe
IATRIA	Integrated approach to Theme-Rheme identification and analysis
INF-RHEME	Information Rheme
INF-THEME	Information Theme
IU	Information Universe
JSI	Joint stock of information
LGP	Language for general purposes
LSP	Language for special purposes
MIU	Main Information Universe
NP	Noun phrase
PTR	Pragmatic Theme-Rheme model
R	Rheme
SA	Scope of attention
SL	Source Language
SSA	Scope of shared attention
SSA JSI	Scope of shared attention form the joint stock of information
ST	Source Text
T	Theme
TL	Target Language
TT	Target Text

1. Introduction and acknowledgements

The aim of this theory-building research is to set up an efficient method for source text understanding, which can be used as a basis for the translation of pragmatic texts. This aim is justified by current desiderata in translation studies and by the results of an analysis of existing information identification and analysis theories and approaches in texts.

Recent studies claim that the more translators know about the structure and the dynamics of discourse, the more readily and accurately they can translate both the content and the spirit of a text (Nida, 1997: 42). Similarly, international research projects highlight directions of research which aim at helping translators make reasonable and consistent decisions as to the relevance and reliability of source text features in the target text (Gerzymisch-Arbogast, 2005: 7). Other recent studies stress the importance of developing information structure theories for translation (Gerzymisch-Arbogast, 2005; Gerzymisch-Arbogast/Kunold/Rothfuß-Bastian, 2006).

Chapter 2 presents a state of the art analysis of existing linguistic theories and approaches to information identification and analysis in texts. The analysis covers theories and approaches which use different parameters for the identification and analysis of information in texts, i.e. syntactic, semantic, pragmatic, and tests their relevance to translation. Eventually, taking into account the results of this analysis and the (in)applicability of analysed theories to translation, this part outlines and justifies the aim of the current research, and launches the hypothesis on which it is based.

Chapter 3 presents a suggested approach to the identification and analysis of information in texts. The approach is built on a model which uses pragmatic parameters for the identification of information in oral communicative situations (Mudersbach, 2008) and on a theory of text perspectives (Gerzymisch-Arbogast, 2006). The presented model is adapted for the identification of information in terms of Themes and Rhemes in written communicative situations; the identified

information is then analysed at different levels, i.e., atomistic, hol-atomistic, holistic, using different parameters, i.e., syntactic, semantic, lexical and grammatical, and cognitive, so as to provide a complete understanding of the text to be translated and to facilitate the translator's decisions in the translation process. The main terms and concepts which are coined and used in this approach, e.g. information universe, generic frame, etc. are explained in this chapter.

Chapter 4 shows how the proposed model for information identification and analysis can be integrated into a translation method. A step-by-step approach to translation is presented: the nine steps suggested to be performed during the translation process are integrated into three main translation stages and exemplified on pragmatic texts. The resulting translation method is structural-functional in nature.

In Chapter 5, a final adequacy test is performed on a new text. It is shown that the suggested translation method can (1) allow for a translator's individuality (subjectivity, creativity) to manifest itself and to support him/her in taking reasonable and consistent decisions as to the relevance and reliability of source text features in the target text, (2) allow for individual variants in text formulation, and (3) account for the fact that it is possible for a source text to have several target versions which may all be 'correct', but which may reflect different discursive modes, different purposes, or translator's preferences.

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presents a model
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such as *conneXions: international professional communication journal* (University of Lisbon) or *MuTra Journal* (University of Saarbrücken).

“The suggested model for the identification and analysis of information in source texts for translation purposes and the suggested translation method based on this model are innovative and based on a detailed linguistic analysis from various pragmatic, cognitive, semantic, syntactic and lexical perspectives ... With many examples and explanations, this book clarifies many problems arising in the translation process.”

Professor Hortensia Pârlog, University of Timișoara

“A very useful tool for the translator, well-documented, with pertinent observations.”

Professor Daniela Ionescu, University of Bucharest

“A valuable theoretical and practical contribution to the studies focusing on the translation of pragmatic texts ... The fine and penetrating analyses, the conceptual classifications, the integrated perspective, the comprehensive view, and the original contribution of a researcher able to put forward viable solutions turn this research into a very successful book on the role of information structure in translation.”

Professor Ștefan Oltean, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

“Modern and inciting ... a useful link in the linguistic and pragmatic evolution of translation studies, at a time when *specialized translations* intervene more and more aggressively in our daily lives.”

Professor Mihai Zdrenghea, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca



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