
EXAMPLE OF THE SOURCE TEXT TRANSLATION ANALYSIS

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Abstract: *The present article represents an example of source text analysis. The Source Text (ST) is the text to be translated, while Target Text (TT) is the translated text. The translation activity is far more complex; I found out that during my studies of METT (European Master of Translation – Terminology). The translation activity encompasses the analysis of the ST, brief – possible situations regarding the aim of the translation – as well as analysis of the target audience - for whom is the translation intended. Before dealing with translating the text, a thorough terminological analysis is necessary, referring to the occurrence of the respective term in parallel texts. That is why, the present article is an example of terminological and translation analysis, which may be useful to the students of In-Depth Philological Studies (Studii Filologice Aprofundate).*

Keywords: *translation, terminology, translator, ST, TT*

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I. INTRODUCTION

The present article represents a translation analysis of the source text CROP PROTECTION & THE EU FOOD SYSTEM: Where are they going? The analysis is part of the dissertation thesis of the future graduate of METT 2, Groza Maria-Camelia. The title is also telling. The reason for choosing this title regards the period chosen to extend my knowledge in the translation and terminology studies, **Quarantined in European Translation - Terminology Studies**. It is important to mention that we are the *Summum bonum* (“Summum bonum.” Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/summum%20bonum>.) of the professors of “Babeș Bolyai” University, European Master Translation and Terminology studies. The knowledge acquired during the two years of comprehensive studies transformed us into accomplished translators ready to begin or continue their adventures into “translation as a purposeful activity”.

Regarding the difficulties encountered in dealing with the above-mentioned ST, I will divide the commentary into two main parts, each of them focusing upon the two components, *id. est*, translation and terminology.

II. Translation Studies

To approach this part, we will rely upon Professor Greere' book, "Translating for Business Purposes, A Functionalist Approach" (1) namely chapter 3, *Translation in the Business Environment Developing a Comprehensive Model*. Thus, according to Professor Greere, the translation process comprises three stages, id est, 1) Task initialization, 2) Task fulfilment and 3) Task evaluation.

Within the first stage, Task initialisation, the client finds the ST and reaches the conclusion it might be relevant for a target recipient. Under these circumstances, the client contacts the translator and formulates the requirement by offering a brief containing the information regarding the recipient, time and place. In case the client does not provide one, the translator requires as much information as to help him to fulfil the translation task. At this point, the translator accepts or declines the task, in case he finds it unfeasible. In case the translator accepts the task, he has the first interaction with the ST and SC, that is analyze its intertextual and intra textual elements, text type and text genre as well as, the transfer methodology. The second stage, Task fulfilment, comprises the ST analysis in identifying the transfer problems. The translator as intercultural professional analyses the TT to determine the transfer solutions. After the decision-making, he then checks the solution with the client, in case the client possesses some knowledge or has certain requirements concerning the terminology. The translator begins producing the target text. The translator, then revises the TT and provides justification of transfer to the client.

The Task evaluation task encompasses the quality control, which is done, first by the translator, as self-revision, then by another translator (as second pair of eyes). Possibly, the client may revise the translation to check the validity of data and/ or terminology utilized. There is also a situation when the client revises the TT on and addressee's reaction. Afterwards, the client provides feedback to the translator, and a further collaboration is possible whether he is satisfied with the result.

Professor Greere mentions a Derivative fourth stage, systematization by translator

II.1. Possible briefs for the task fulfilment of translating *the text B, CROP PROTECTION & THE EU FOOD SYSTEM: Where are they going?*

Since, according to Christiane Nord, the translator bases his/ her decisions in the translation process upon the function and communicative of the TT intended for a certain target culture, it is of help to mention that the RISE report represents the result of the research of a team of scientists, specialists in many domains, and that it represents part of the activity of a non-profit organization, the RISE Foundation.

Nevertheless, following Nord's advice, in dealing with the translation task, the translator must design some possible briefs, unless provided by the client. Therefore, we have designed 3 briefs to guide our decision-making process regarding the translation. The detailed TOSTA (Translation-oriented Source Text Analysis) will communicate more on the function of the ST. interestingly, the information comprised by the brochure is in line with Romania's concerns toward agronomic practices and climate change.

Situation 1. The client is a non-profit organization, as the author of our brochure. The client might make use of the brochure to increase the Romanian public' awareness about the serious effects of utilizing the improper **Plant Protection Product**. For this reason, the organization might ask a less experienced translator to fulfil the task, for free or for low payment. On the other hand, the brochure might seem obsolete, because the year of publication being 2020, the year of the pandemic. Yet, the brochure has no reference to the pandemic of Covid-19, meaning that the time when it was drawn up was before the outbreak of the pandemic. Interestingly, the brochure signals a severe issue, which is a current one, given the effect upon the climate change and human health. On the other hand,

leaving aside the almost 2 years of extreme health conditions, it may be high time to address the real problem of general interest.

Situation 2. The client is a stakeholder, aware of the negative impact of utilizing the dangerous PPP, who cares about the serious implications for the future of our planet and its people's health of using the improper **plant protection products**. It might seem utopic, yet, he strives to find a translator, freelancer or firm, to fulfil the task without being paid or low payment. The attitude of the stakeholder is admirable, especially, taking into consideration that he, a producer, has given up his benefit for the sake of his fellow inhabitants of the planet.

It might seem a much too visionary script. Nonetheless, if we considered the recent health crisis, which affected all the industries worldwide, we would realize that out of nowhere, anything might be possible. Therefore, we should be more aware than ever of the severe consequences which might affect us all in the long run.

Situation 3. The Ministry of Agriculture is a potential client. In such a situation, the client, i.e. the ministry needs to know what the specialists' latest recommendations in the matter of crop protection are.

II.2. Source Text Analysis

II.2.a. Source Text Extra-Textual Features

	Crop Protection & the EU Food System: Where are they going?	Implications for the translator
Sender	Rural Investment Support for Europe Foundation (RISE) - EU	The translator as a linguistic and cultural expert must find the best transfer solution, on the one hand, to comply with the client requirements and on the other, to be loyal to the text he/ she translates (<i>Traduttore, traditore, Jacobson:2000, p.118</i>).
		Or he/ she may contact the sender to ask further details concerning the specialized terms.
Intention	Increasing the awareness of the farmers, consumers, PPP industry, environmentalists, scientists, public authorities, and politicians) for the urgency of implementing the green transition	The translator must make the best use of his linguistic competences to convey the authors' intention. Their explicit intention is to inform the target audience upon the implications of those plant protection products which affect people's health. On the other hand, to persuade them to stop using products which may be dangerous for the people's health.



Addressee	Farmers, consumers, PPP industry, environmentalists, scientists, public authorities, and politicians	The translator must adapt the source text for the target audience. Interestingly, EU translates the almost all the issued documents into the languages of the member states.
Place of Text Production and Reception	EU	The brochure makes clear this information in its title.
Time of Text Production and Reception	2020	There is no clear reference to the covid-19 pandemic. For this reason, the translator assumes it has been drawn up as the result of the authors' research before the pandemic began.
Medium of Communication	Written text - brochure	The translator must adapt the translation for the TC, Romanian audience.
Instrument of Communication	RISE Foundation Brochure	The authors are prestigious researchers in the domain.
Status of Production and Reception	It is a brochure containing detailed information on crop protection toolbox as well as short historical outlines of the main stages of agricultural practices.	The translator should perform thorough documentation, to get familiarized with the domain.
Motive for Production	The motive for production, as the authors themselves state, is the need for ecological transition discussed by the governments and international organizations.	The translator should adapt the ST to the TC.

4

Motive for Communication	The authors explain that the report has the aim to enable a better understanding “of the issues surrounding the way agricultural crops are protected in the EU”.	We have quoted directly from the ST (on the last cover of the brochure) to emphasize clearly the motive for communication of the brochure.
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Function of the Text	The ST “kills two birds with one stone”. On the one hand, the informative function of the brochure resides in offering the necessary information upon the past and present agricultural practices. On the other hand, the persuasive function of the brochure is designed to convince the recipients: farmers, stakeholders and policy makers upon the emergency of applying the proper crop protection toolbox.	Therefore, the linguistic expert must do his/ her best for maintaining and conveying the function of the ST into the TT.
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II.2.b. Source Text Intra-Textual Features

	Crop Protection & the EU Food System: Where are they going?	Implications for the translator
Domain/ Subject Matter	The domain is agronomy, subdomain, agriculture, the sub subdomain is crop-protection.	In this respect, we did some research and found BA topics, for the Universitatea de Științe Agronomice și Medicină Veterinară, București, 2016. In Romanian, “Protecția Plantelor”, according to AGRO.BUCUREȘTI.RO
Presuppositions	Though the brochure can be found online, it has not been translated yet. Being the case of a non-profit entity, the publishing of the brochure was possible through donations.	Therefore, the translation task is possible for a potential client interested in the techniques EU recommends to those interested.
Vocabulary	The specialized terminology characterizes the brochure as it addresses to farmers, consumers, PPP industry, environmentalists, scientists, public authorities, and politicians. These categories of readers are familiar with the terminology.	We can mention a few examples of the agricultural terminology: <i>crop protection toolbox, active substance, low risk active substance, agroecology, PPP (Plant Protection Products), mycotoxin, crop rotation, mulches</i> , etc.
Order of Information	The information is arranged in a logical order with introduction, body of the brochure, conclusions. The brochure contains also a glossary and a list of abbreviations.	Therefore, the brochure, result of an interdisciplinary study of a multinational team, has the format of a scientific paper. Let us remember that the authors are Emeritus Professor Allan



		BUCKWELL ¹ , Dr. Evelyn DE WACHTER ² , Dr. Elisabet NADEU ³ , & Annabelle WILLIAMS ⁴ , with Dr. Janez Potočnik as the Chairman of the Board of the RISE Foundation ⁵ .
Formal Design	The design of the brochure suits its persuasive purpose.	The non-verbal elements meant to persuade are images of crops or images of field flowers as if conveying the idea ” Here is what you will lose”.
Syntactical Characteristics	The structure of the sentences sustains the persuasive function of the ST. They are rather short communicating specific data and referring to the policies applied in the domain of plant protection. As it is intended to consumers too, who might not be too familiar with the specialized language, the ST also inserts popular sayings exhibiting the expressive function.	Examples: <i>But talking is one thing, and doing is another.</i> <i>[...] is one issue that must be effectively addressed [...] [...] we need to move away from reliance on chemistry [...]</i>
Style	The style of the ST is specific to scientific articles.	In the executive summary, one can notice the thesis to be demonstrated along the scientific paper. Example: <i>The focus of this report is crop-protection in the European Union (EU)</i> . On the other hand, the style of the text is scientific pertaining to the domain plant protection. One can notice, as well, the formal style of the political implications.

¹ Emeritus Professor Allan Buckwell joined IEEP as a half-time Senior Fellow in January 2012. Two-thirds of his career has been as an academic agricultural economist specialising in agricultural and rural policy. ieep.eu ⁴ Evelyn De Wachter has authored and co-authored multiple peer-reviewed scientific papers and presented works at many national and International conferences. Dr. Evelyn De Wachter contributions have acclaimed recognition from honourable subject experts around the world. biography.omicsonline.org

² Evelyn De Wachter has a doctorate in Applied Physics with specific experience in remote sensing of the atmosphere and the link with climate change and air pollution.

³ Annabelle Williams is the Managing Director at RISE. Prior to joining the RISE Foundation, Annabelle spent over 10 years managing projects in the humanitarian and development sector both from the UK and overseas. risefoundation.eu

⁴ RISE Foundation

⁵ Dr. Janez Potočnik is the Chairman of the Board of the RISE Foundation. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia (Ph.D. degree 1993). [https://risefoundation.eu/](http://risefoundation.eu/)

Effect	The ST requires immediate action towards a sustainable agriculture and persuades the	Example: <i>This is entirely consistent with the fact that the climate and biodiversity crises</i>
	reader upon the risks of not acting in response.	<i>are driving transformations and system change in energy, mobility and other fundamental aspects of 21st Century life.</i>

II.3. Translation problems

The TT does not pose major issues for the translator as a linguistic expert. Interestingly, EU through DGT provides translated version for almost all the documents issued. Therefore, I found most of the terms in the EU documents. At a certain point, I wondered whether I must translate the abbreviations in the list. Amazingly, during a Spanish translation class, professor Iulia Bobăilă stated that we should not do that since there might be interested persons in finding more and finding an equivalent into TT, might hinder that. Nonetheless, there were abbreviations which had correspondent variant into Romanian and again Professor Iulia Bobăilă provided useful advice. The commentary continues with some of the translation problems.

Pragmatic

ST	Solution for TT	Notes
<i>CAP</i>	<i>PAC</i>	Replacement of the policy in the Romanian context
<i>European Environment Agency</i>	<i>Agenția Europeană de Mediu</i>	Replacement of the agency in the Romanian context
<i>SUD</i>	<i>Directiva privind utilizarea durabilă a pesticidelor</i>	Replacement of the directive in the Romanian context

Cultural

ST	Solution for TT	Notes
<i>executive summary</i>	<i>Sinteza raportului</i>	According to Nord, cultural translation problems represent the difference in norms and conventions between the two cultures. Otherwise, according to CORPORATE FINANCE INSTITUTE, the term signifies a business plan, which is not exactly the case of our ST.
<i>crop protection</i>	<i>protecția plantelor</i>	If we translated word by word, the meaning would be <i>protecția culturilor</i> .

		Yet, http://www.agro-bucuresti.ro/ , Universitatea de Științe Agronomice și Medicină Veterinară, the locus where we have found topics for BA theses, classifies it as <i>protecția plantelor</i> .
REFIT	Programul REFIT	The site https://ec.europa.eu/ is in English, yet I found the site in Romanian and the term utilized is <i>programul REFIT</i> .

Linguistic

ST	Solution for TT	Notes
<i>big data</i>	<i>Big data</i> ⁶	Consulting the terminologist, Manuela Mihăescu, who in turn, consulted a specialist, I found out that the term is utilized in Romanian ⁷ , too. Therefore, I proceeded in finding reliable sources. Further details in the footnotes
<i>ecological transition</i>	tranziție verde	The linguistic translation problem has to do with text specificity of the language pair. The translator's dilemma is between <i>tranziție verde</i> și <i>tranziție ecologică</i> . Although a calque is possible, I transferred as such because the Romanian term proposed has a greater occurrence, 62. 700 while <i>tranziție ecologică</i> 62.500. On the other hand, I took into consideration the trusted sources against not trusted ones.
<i>GHG</i>	<i>emisiile de seră</i>	https://ghgprotocol.org/ the translator transfers as such because of the specificity of languages pair.
<i>mulch</i>	<i>mulci</i>	The Romanian specialists utilized a calque. Therefore, I myself utilised it. Source: Ioan Sebastian Bruma et al. „Termeni și noțiuni de agricultură ecologică”, PDF, 9.12.2011, disponibil la www.researchgate.net , (accesat la, 4.05.2022)
<i>Crop rotation</i>	<i>Rotația culturilor și asolament</i>	I had to consult specialized trusted documents. Source, „Rotația culturilor - Ce este, ce presupune și cum se realizează”, BASF Agricultural Solutions România, disponibil la https://www.agro.basf.ro/ (accesat la, 4.05.2022)
<i>Farm to Fork</i>	<i>De la fermă la consumator</i>	I have found the solution in an EU document https://romania.representation.ec.europa.eu/news/strategiade-la-ferma-la-consumator-65-de-intreprinderi-siasociatii-semneaza-codul-de_ro and adopted as such.

Text-specific

ST	Solution for TT	Notes
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⁶ Data that contains greater variety, arriving in increasing volumes and with more velocity. (Source: <https://www.oracle.com/>)

⁷ Institutul Național de Cercetare-Dezvoltare în Informatică - ICI București, <https://rria.ici.ro/>

<i>But talking is one thing and doing is another.</i>	<i>De la vorbă la faptă este cale lungă.</i>	I have adapted to the TC and found an equivalent Romanian saying.
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III. Terminology studies

Before beginning my analysis, it is worth quoting one of my professors in METT, the esteemed professor Cristina Varga:

The present study is based on the idea that language is constantly evolving in response to the communicative needs of speakers. Therefore, language innovates, creates, and assimilates lexical units that reflect the realities of the time, namely, events such as social movements, pandemics, wars, technological advances, activities, sports, and so on. (Varga, Grigore: 279, 2025)

Regarding our terminological analysis, the English text for language B belongs to the domain of agronomy, subdomain agriculture, sub-subdomain crop protection with implications in agricultural policies, landscape management, while some of the terms concern IT domain. Therefore, the ST comprises terms specific to the above-mentioned specialized domains. Consequently, as Nord urges, I found parallel texts dealing with similar issues.

It is interesting to mention that the RISE Foundation brochure itself asserts that *the terminology of crop protection is often quite confused in practice*⁸. I encountered this issue when dealing with *agricultură organică, agricultură ecologică or agricultură durabilă*, whose definitions found in trusted sources (PDF articles, manuals, glossaries etc.) are ambiguous.

Here are some examples of ambiguous terms:

Organic agriculture - an overall system of farm management and food production that combines best environmental and climate action practices, a high level of biodiversity, the preservation of natural resources and the application of high animal welfare standards and high production standards in line with the demand of a growing number of consumers for products produced using natural substances and processes. (Source, RISE Foundation)

According to the Regulation (CE) 834/2007 of EC and the Regulation of the European Commission 889/2008 the member countries make use of the following terms: *organic agriculture* (England, Cyprus, Ireland, and Malta), *biological agriculture* (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Grecia, Italia, Luxemburg, Olanda and Portugal) and *ecological agriculture* (Denmark, Lithuania, Polonia, Romania, Spania, Slovenia, Sweden and Hungary). Other countries utilize the terms interchangeably: *biological agriculture* and *ecological agriculture* (Czech Republic, Estonia, Germania, Letonia, Slovakia and Spania). (Source, MANUAL DE AGRICULTURĂ ECOLOGICĂ (suport de curs), Program Național de Dezvoltare rurala).

⁸ RISE Foundation, p. 10

Sustainable agriculture: agricultural systems that preserve and restore natural ecosystem functioning; both within agricultural soils and in above ground crop systems working from the field to the landscape scale and integrating semi-natural elements. (Source: RISE Foundation)

In other words, in my opinion, these terms are interchangeable since all refer to ecological production taking into consideration the natural resources. And preservation of the environment. Even the specialists utilize one or another of these terms to refer to an agricultural system different from the so-called green revolution which made use intensively of pesticides to obtain higher yields per hectare.

Besides the ambiguity concerning similar agricultural systems these are the terminological issues that posed problem in the sense that I did not find the equivalents right away, but after weeks of research. At this point, professor Mihăescu's teachings regarding the results after long searches deserve to be mentioned.

Source term	Target term	Notes
soil sequestration	<i>sechestrare carbon în sol</i>	A thorough documentation in a textbook of pedology, the science of soil, I encountered the solution proposed. Source, Stanislav STADNIC, PEDOLOGIE (Știința solului: geneza, proprietățile, clasificarea, geografia), see bibliography
<i>crop protection</i>	<i>protecția culturilor</i>	Yet, http://www.agro-bucuresti.ro/ , Universitatea de Științe Agronomice și Medicină Veterinară, where we have found topics for BA theses, classifies it as <i>protecția plantelor</i> .
PPP	<i>produs fitosanitar, PPP, produs de protecția plantelor</i>	I have encountered the three solutions here Source: https://eur-lex.europa.eu
REFIT	<i>Programul REFIT</i> Programul privind o reglementare adecvată și funcțională (Comitetul economic și Social European, INT/750, Programul REFIT, Bruxelles, 10 decembrie 2014, disponibil la	I will insert a footnote with the full denomination of the Programme and the address to be accessed by interested parties.

	http://www.eesc.europa.eu , (accesat la 23.05.2022)	
<i>big data</i>	<i>big data</i>	Consulting the terminologist, Manuela Mihăescu, who in turn, consulted a specialist in IT, I found out that the term is utilized in Romanian, too. Therefore, I proceeded in finding reliable sources. BIG DATA – CONCEPTE, ARHITECTURȘI TEHNOLOGII, (Source: https://rria.ici.ro/wp-content)
<i>ecological transition</i>	<i>tranziție verde</i> , dar și calcul <i>tranziție ecologică</i>	The translator's dilemma is between <i>tranziție verde</i> și <i>tranziție ecologică</i> . Although a calque is possible, I transferred as such because the Romanian term proposed has a greater occurrence, 62.700 while <i>tranziție ecologică</i> 62.500. On the other hand, I took into consideration the trusted sources against not trusted ones.
<i>GHC</i>	<i>gaze cu efect de seră</i>	https://www.geyc.ro/
<i>mulch</i>	<i>mulci</i>	Ioan Sebastian Bruma et al. „Termeni și noțiuni de agricultură ecologică”, PDF, 9.12.2011, disponibil la www.researchgate.net , (accesat la, 4.05.2022)
<i>crop rotation</i>	<i>rotația culturilor, asolament</i>	„Rotația culturilor - Ce este, ce presupune și cum se realizează”, BASF Agricultural Solutions România, disponibil la https://www.agro.basf.ro/ (accesat la, 4.05.2022)

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the *EN text, CROP PROTECTION & THE EU FOOD SYSTEM: Where are they going?* belongs to the domain agronomy subdomain agriculture, sub-subdomain crop protection with implications in agricultural policies, landscape management, while some other terms concern IT domain.

The translator must deal with the TOSTA analysis. The reason is that the above-mentioned analysis enables the translator to find the function of the ST necessary and, in turn, to determine that of the TT.



Since the client did not provide a brief, we designed three possible situations, in which the addressee might be an NGO, a stakeholder or the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture itself.

In dealing with TOSTA, we find out that the brochure is the result of the endeavors of RISE Foundation, an NGO concerned with the present situation in agriculture, specifically with the utilization of improper crop protection toolbox, which affects the environment, the ecosystem and most importantly, the peoples' health.

Thus, the brochure represents a report drawn up by a team of researchers, specialists in various domains, therefore an interdisciplinary one, realized by a multinational team.

In this respect, the intention of the text is to increase the awareness of the stakeholders (farmers, agricultural companies, policy makers) upon the urgency of passing to green transition.

Another issue, we have dealt with were the translation problems. We have found all the four types,

- Pragmatic, example, *soil sequestration*, related to the situational displacement of the source text and re-placement in the target text; the Romanian equivalent *sechestrarea carbonului în sol*;
- Cultural problem may be a consequence of cultural displacement, as well, example *crop protection*, for which I found in TT two equivalents, *protecția plantelor* and *protecția culturilor*;
- Linguistic problem comes from the specificity of ST, example big data, which I kept in the TT, because I found an article in Revista Română de Informatică și Automatică, which utilizes it.
- Text-specific problem related to an English saying, "*But talking is one thing and doing is another*", for which I found an equivalent Romanian saying "*De la vorbă la faptă este cale lungă*".

At large, the terminological problems are some of the translation problems. The reason is that the text belongs to a specialized main domain and subdomains. In short, the specialists are familiar with the terms. Here are some examples: *soil sequestration*, *crop protection*, *PPP*, *REFIT*, *big data*, *ecological transition*, *GHC*, *mulch*, *crop rotation*. Nonetheless, among these, in the glossary, I have analyzed only some of them, because not all of them had many occurrences. The reason for which I have chosen these as terminological problems refers to the long hours of documentation.

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