Methodology of our research

Multi-method approach:
- linguistic and educational background information
- participant observation
- keystroke logging and progression graphs
- computer screenshot recordings and eye-tracking
- replays of screenshot recordings to elicit verbalizations (cue-based retrospective verbal protocols: RVPs)
- intermediate versions and final text products

Long-term monitoring of translation processes:
- students at three points in their translation careers
- professionals with different levels of experience
- different language combinations (G-E, E-G, F-G, G-F, I-G, G-I)
- translation into L1 or L2
Translation competence models: PACTE (2008)

- Bilingual sub-competence
- Extra-linguistic sub-competence
- Strategic sub-competence
- Instrumental sub-competence
- Translation-knowledge sub-competence
- Psycho-physiological components

Transfer in the translation process

- transfer can be positive or negative (Odlin 1989; Selinker 1969)
- the greater the similarity between languages, the greater the amount of both positive and negative transfer (Herdina & Jessner 2002)
- perceived similarity between languages can result in positive transfer, assumed similarity can result in negative transfer (Ringbom 2007)
- cross-linguistic influence can be bidirectional (Cook 2003; Gass & Selinker 2001; Jarvis & Pavlenko 2008)

“It is thus reasonable to assume, even without conclusive evidence, that transfer occurs in translation because translation involves a contact between two languages and is a form of bilingual processing.” (Mauranen 2004: 67)
Transfer in the translation process

Potential transfer of a lexical item:
“eventuell”
- “eventually”?
- “possibly”?

Potential transfer of a temporal metaphor:
“vanish from the page of history”
- spatial metaphor?
- temporal non-metaphor?

Professional’s translation process
Professional’s cue-based RVP

...I just read each sentence, sentence by sentence, and then it was just a case of writing what was there.

Sentence 1

So I just had to go to the internet ... to check the exact EU terminology in English.

Sentence 2

Typical German back-to-front sentence ... Thinking how to start it off in English, so that it reads naturally...

Beginner’s translation process
Beginner’s cue-based RVP

The first sentence is hard because I didn’t know how to get into the text so I had to think about it ...

... and this uhm “aus dem Verkehr gezogen” was really strange ...Ahh, if I could find a good synonym because I knew I couldn’t take “taken out of the traffic”

At the beginning, the time adverbial and then like I had to get this lady in too. So, then, I did decide to put her first because it’s kind of normal in English ...

Potential transfer (D-E): sentence 1

Source text Potential transfer
In EU-Staaten müssen immer mehr gefährliche Spielzeuge und Elektrogeräte aus China aus dem Verkehr gezogen werden.

Professional:
In EU states, more and more dangerous toys and electrical devices are having to be recalled.
In EU states, more and more dangerous toys and electrical devices from China are having to be recalled.

Beginner:
More and more toys and electric appliances produced in China are being removed from
More and more toys and electric appliances produced in China are being removed from taken off the shelves due to the risks they pose
More and more toys and electric appliances produced in China are being taken off the shelves in the European Union due to the risks they pose.
Last year, the EU authorities banned around a third more general everyday appliances from stores than in 2005, as the EU Consumer Commissioner, Meglena Kuneva, declared on Thursday in Brussels.
Development of translation competence

Optimization of transfer is one aspect of strategic competence:
• exploitation of positive transfer
• recognition of potential translation problems
• avoidance of negative transfer

Others include:
• metalinguistic awareness
  (ability to reflect upon and manipulate languages)
• compensation for the limitations of internal resources
  (knowledge about which external resources to access and when)

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Capturing translation processes:
a multi-method approach
Maureen Ehrensberger-Dow & Daniel Perrin

Thank you for your interest
and attention!
References


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