

## Properties of translated texts: methods and evaluations

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Translations have been shown to exhibit particular linguistic features indicating that they are a special type of text. The specific properties of translations are of interest both to the practising translator, to the linguist and the translation scholar.

The first part of the course is concerned with an extended register analysis of an English original text and its German translation, combined with a typologically-based analysis of systemically-induced translation problems. While we will thus engage in a pre-translational text analysis of a source text and an evaluation of its translation, we will afterwards use relevant excerpts from these same texts to illustrate how and in what respects translation is different from, though related to, other forms of multilingual text production. Apart from inviting participants to engage in these exercises with us, we also intend to illustrate how theoretically-motivated notions, in this case “register”, combined with a functionally-based comparative linguistics, can be a significant help and source of insight.

The second part of the course is concerned with some of the most widely discussed hypotheses about the specific properties of translations (e.g., normalization, sanitization, shining through, explicitation). We will introduce these properties and show they are manifested in particular linguistic patterns (e.g., type-token ratio, sentence length, selected lexico-grammatical and discourse features). As most of these patterns can only be detected on the basis of sufficiently large amounts of data, we will introduce some corpus-based methodologies for the investigation of the specific properties of translations. This will include corpus designs (parallel corpus, cross-lingually comparable corpus, monolingually comparable corpus) and techniques of corpus analysis (concordancing, annotation, corpus query, data analysis). Finally, we will discuss some possible sources of motivation for the specific properties of translation, including language typology, cross-linguistic register variation and the process of translation itself.

### References

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