Abstracts workshops RaAM 2015 seminar, 10-12 June, Leiden

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1. Abstracts for post-plenary workshops

1.1 Jean Boase-Beier

Wolves in Poetry and Translation

In this talk I consider the metaphor of the wolf, particularly as it appears in Holocaust poetry. It is an interesting metaphor, since it is ambiguous: wolves are both sinister and nurturing, both savage and noble. Related to conceptual metaphors such as PEOPLE ARE ANIMALS, the wolf metaphor is also embedded in myth and in its particular cultural and historical context. I ask how poems that revolve around wolf metaphors can be and have been understood and translated, and how an understanding of metaphor might affect the choices a translator makes.

1.2 Dimitri Psurtsev

Special forms of cohesion underlying the metaphor-morphism of literary text: translation aspect

[further information to follow]

1.3 Christina Schäffner

Metaphors and cognitive load: The case of interpreting

Most of the research into metaphors and translation within the discipline of Translation Studies has been text-based, and thus product-oriented. The text shows us the result of very complex cognitive processes, but if we have only the translation product available for analysis, we cannot retrace the actual pathways of the translator's decision-making procedures. Investigations into translation processes conducted so far have tried to fill this gap in our knowledge, and methods used have included think-aloud protocols (TAPs), keystroke logging, and eye-tracking, either separately or in combination. Some of the findings are that metaphorical expressions in the source text slow down the process and lengthen the completion of the translation task, eye fixation time is longer for metaphors compared to non-metaphorical language, and there is a link between the translation strategy and the gaze time. This has led scholars to conclude that metaphors seem indeed to be linked to greater cognitive load. Concerning questions such as what exactly triggers the need to access the conceptual level in real translation events, or how is the cognitive load distributed between metaphor interpretation and target text formulation, the data gathered so far are not conclusive.

Another area which has been under-researched in respect of metaphors is interpreting. Moreover, using the methods mentioned above is impossible for studying interpreting processes. In this presentation, I will reflect on the question of how we can investigate the cognitive effort involved in dealing with metaphor in interpreting. The data will come from interpreter-mediated interviews and press conferences at which the simultaneous mode was used. In simultaneous interpreting, it is difficult to distinguish an analytical phase and a synthesis phase in text processing. Transcripts and recordings will be analysed in order to establish whether particular features can be identified as signalling a potentially higher cognitive load for the interpreter.

2. Abstracts for communicative domains workshops

2.1 Tony Foster (legal discourse)

Metaphor Across Legal Cultures: A Comparison of Dutch and English Supreme Court Rulings

If you're not a lawyer, reading a decision by the highest court of the Netherlands, the Hoge Raad der Nederlanden, is probably as interesting as watching paint dry – even in the unlikely event that you've been able to make sense of what the text says. Let's take a passage from a 1966 ruling on liability for danger to others:

> "..that whether and if so to what extent a person who creates a situation which
> is dangerous for others who have not observed the required degree of attention

and carefulness can be required to take into consideration that said degree of attention and carefulness is not observed and to take certain safety measures in contemplation thereof can only be judged in the light of the circumstances of given case;…" [My translation – TF]

For the sake of comparison, let's take a few lines from a 1932 judgment by the English House of Lords, more or less on the same issue. In a product liability case the highest judges of the land had to decide the extent of our obligation to avoid harm to others:

"The rule that you are to love your neighbour becomes in law, you must not injure your neighbour; and the lawyer's question, Who is my neighbour? receives a restricted reply. You must take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which you can reasonably foresee would be likely to injure your neighbour. Who, then, in law, is my neighbour? The answer seems to be – persons who are so closely and directly affected by my act that I ought reasonably to have them in contemplation as being so affected when I am directing my mind to the acts or omissions which are called in question."

Both passages are typical of their authors' style of writing. In all fairness to the Dutch ruling, the English translation is quite literal; a more creative translator could have done more to make it easier to process. Still, compared with its Dutch counterpart the English judgment is surprisingly clear and readable. A striking feature of the English judgment is its use of figurative language. The biblical metaphor in Lord Aitkin's speech will be obvious to any but the most naïve reader. According to Gibbs (1999), metaphors play an important role in helping people to represent concepts, especially abstract ones. Does this explain why the English text is easier and more attractive to read? The questions that we will address in our workshop are these:

- What is the legal function of metaphors in Supreme Court judgments?
- Does corpus study prove that English justices indeed use more metaphors in their judgments than Dutch justices do in their rulings?
- Dutch Supreme Court rulings are not completely devoid of metaphor. Are there differences between the Dutch and English metaphors in terms of chosen source and target domains?
- To what extent do legal-cultural reasons account for the differences in metaphor use between Dutch and English Supreme Court decisions?
- What is the relevance of all this for translators and interpreters?

2.2 Mark Shuttleworth (scientific discourse)

Researching metaphor in original and translated scientific discourse

The workshop will focus on a range of different types of metaphor in the popular journal Scientific American and how they are handled by translators working into French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian and Chinese.

In spite of a sometimes uneasy acceptance of metaphor by scientists the fact is that this figure of speech plays an important role in science on a conceptual level, while – in popular science in particular – on a discourse level it is an ever-present feature of scientific writing – whether

it arises from theory creation, concept explanation, terminological convention or simply writing style. And yet what precisely are we saying when we talk about a genome as if it were a library from which information can be drawn, or a code that can be broken? When such crucial expressions are transposed into another language, to what extent do both the core idea and the nuances tend to be kept under control? The workshop will present for discussion a number of multilingual examples that represent different types of metaphor or translation procedures. Time will also be devoted to discussing different methodologies that can be used for data analysis.

2.3 Katinka Zeven (literary discourse)

Walking the tightrope – translating literary metaphors

If you have ever tried your hand at literary translation you might, in a moment of despair, have been reminded of one of the many metaphors and similes used to describe the work of a translator. And although Dryden coined the phrase 'dancing on ropes with fettered legs' primarily to criticize the type of translation practice he dubbed 'metaphrase', the comparison of the translator to a funambulist and of translation to a balancing act may still be valid ones, even if most literary translators nowadays aspire to what Dryden would call 'paraphrase' or 'imitation'. The constraints that translators have to work with are, after all, countless – especially in literary translation, where the often blurry line between form and content makes the job of the tightrope artist a particularly hazardous one. The translation of metaphors in literature – consciously chosen for their aesthetic effect – thus presents a wonderful challenge for translators, as their form and meaning are inextricably intertwined. It may be argued that the impossibility to separate form and meaning applies even more to minimalist writing than to any other type of prose. In this workshop, we'll be looking into the way in which metaphors in general and culture-specific metaphors and extended metaphors in particular limit the translator's freedom, and whether or not the nature of minimalist writing constitutes yet another shackle around the ankles of the literary translator.

3. Abstracts for tools and methods workshops

3.1 Tina Krennmayr & Gudrun Reijnierse (MIPVU)

MIP (Pragglejaz 2007) and MIPVU (Steen et al. 2010) are systematic, step-by-step protocols that allow researchers to code natural language data for metaphorical language use. We will discuss what it means to identify metaphor on a linguistic level of analysis and critically look at tools analysts may choose to code their data for metaphorical language use.

This workshop consists of two parts. The first part will focus on the identification of metaphor in English and guide you through each step of the MIP(VU) metaphor identification procedure. The second part of the workshop will focus on adjusting and applying the identification procedure to languages other than English. Examples from Dutch

(Pasma 2011) and French (Reijnierse 2011) will be provided, but there will also be ample room for discussing your own experiences with identifying metaphor by means of MIP(VU) in the language(s) you have been working with.

3.2 Lettie Dorst & Gill Philip (corpora)

Depending on the background knowledge of the participants, this workshop will consist of two parts. The first part will focus on corpus linguistic techniques and how these can be used to study metaphor in discourse. The second part will look more specifically at how comparable and parallel corpora can be used to study metaphor in translation. Examples from a range of languages will be provided, and we encourage participants to bring their own materials and to share their experiences, questions, problems and solutions with the group.

3.3 Elena Semino (Wmatrix)

The methods of corpus linguistics have been shown to be relevant to metaphor analysis in a number of ways. This workshop will show how the semantic annotation tool included in the corpus comparison software Wmatrix (http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/wmatrix/) can be employed to identify candidates for metaphoricity in large datasets. The method will be demonstrated in relation to English data, but details will be included on the development of versions of the semantic tagger in other languages.