

**Kerstin Kunz,
Mihaela Vela,
Silvia Hansen-
Schirra, Stella
Neumann &
Erich Steiner**

Cohesion and explicitation in the CroCo Corpus

The present paper sheds some light on the use of quantitative data for a contrastive investigation of cohesion in English-German translations. In translation studies, cohesive features have been analysed as indicators for explicitation either in an example-based way or as concordances in monolingually comparable corpora of raw text. Where this is done without taking into account the source texts the interpretation of explicitation remains restricted and problematic.

The basic assumption for the analysis of explicitation in the present paper is that a cohesive element that is explicitated in the target text has to be present implicitly in a linguistically traceable way in the source text and vice versa for implicitated elements. Explicitation is thus defined as a relationship and a process between instantiated and aligned pieces of translated texts. Furthermore, we stratify the notion of explicitation according to the linguistic levels of lexico-grammar and cohesion. As this stratification is still too abstract to be directly quantified on linguistic data in an electronic corpus, a series of further micro-level operationalisations is undertaken which are meant to bring the relevant phenomena down to an empirically measurable level.

For this purpose, our investigation of explicitation and implicitation of cohesion markers in translations is based on a cross-linguistic corpus containing statistically meaningful and representative samples of German and English parallel texts from 8 registers annotated with parts of speech, morphology, phrase structure and grammatical functions. A characteristic feature of this corpus is the alignment of source and target texts on different linguistically motivated layers: we not only align sentences and words but also clauses and syntactic functions.

A methodological principle for the compilation of the resource is the distinction between strictly lexico-grammatical annotation of source and target language texts including the alignment of these annotations on the one hand, and the interpretation of the data in view of more abstract concepts like “explicitation” on the other. This distinction allows us to pose queries on (combinations of) lower level linguistic features assumed to be indicators of the more abstract concept.

In the present paper we will exemplify the queries possible on the basis of the annotation and alignment for the cohesion markers described by Halliday & Hasan (1976) and their equivalents for German. We will discuss query results in a cross-linguistic perspective and draw conclusions on explicitation and implicitation in translated text. The long-term aim of the present study is then to interpret quantitative (co-)occurrences and patterns found in translations and their source texts as indicators of explicitation/ implicitation against the background of three sources of explanation: language typology, text typology and the translator’s language processing.

References

Halliday, M.A.K. & Hasan, R. 1976. *Cohesion in English*. London: Longman.