Introduction

Focus on a comparative grammar class for translation students

- What for? Improve naturalness of translations (and invisibility of translators)
- How? Sensitize students to inter-language differences, in particular concerning usage (≠ rules)

Grammatically correct is NOT enough!

Introduction


3-step methodology:

1. Observation of data from comparable corpus (inter-language differences)

How to make translation students aware of the insufficiency of grammatically correct translations through corpus data

A 7/14 PechaKucha style presentation

- Focus on a comparative grammar class for translation students
- 2nd-year MA students, University of Lille
- English-French, translationese-prone phenomena
- Corpus-based approach: comparable+parallel corpora
- Observation of data + Translation exercises
3-step methodology:

1. **Observation of data from comparable corpus (inter-language differences)**

   ![Bar chart showing frequency of -ly and -ment adverbs (pmw)]

   - COCA (full corpus: books general only) vs. BNC (full corpus: fiction prose only)
   - Frantext catégorisé post-1980 (full corpus: novels only)

   Source: Loock et al. (2014)

2. **Observation of data from parallel corpus (translation strategies)**

   - The lights were out, but the curtains were wide open and there was plenty of light coming in from the street.
   - Scientists in Texas have successfully cloned a cat, opening the way to replicating pets and other valued animals.
   - The company has said previously it will not pay rewards.

3. **Translation exercise (translate, avoiding X):**

   - You can raise your children traditionally if you really want to.
   - You can raise your children traditionnellement si vous le souhaitez vraiment.
   - You can raise your children traditionally if you really want to.
   - You can raise your children traditionnellement si vous le souhaitez vraiment.

   **Example:**

   You can raise your children traditionally if you really want to.
   *Vous pouvez élever vos enfants traditionnellement si vous le souhaitez vraiment.*

   **Focus on ONE syntactic feature**

   **Corpus compilation + analysis**

   **Example: translation of obituaries**

   1. Translate an obituary before class (early September)
   2. Compilation of a DIY English-French comparable corpus (NECROCORPUS)
   3. Quantification & analysis of usage differences
   4. Use this information to revise translation if deemed necessary

   **HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT**

   **(research project)**
Students ARE sensitized to insufficiency of grammatical correctness
But complain of time-consuming activity
Differences in usage are NOT taken into account by MT, including NMT (Loock 2018)
Taking inter-language grammatical differences in usage =

added value of « biotranslators » vs. AI?
future-proofing the profession?