

His breath a thin winter-whistle in his throat: English metaphors and their translation into Scandinavian languages

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In a previous study (Wikberg, forthcoming) based on 11 fiction extracts from the ENPC corpus I show that the translation of innovative metaphors from English into Swedish and Finnish are mostly based on equivalent images and that most of the changes that occur in the rendering of the metaphors are simply due to the constraints of the target languages. Another finding was that the overwhelming majority of the metaphors have other than plot-advancing functions.

In this study I will examine the translation of metaphors and idioms with a metaphorical meaning in a wider selection of texts in the ENPC corpus. My aim is further to examine the functions these non-literal expressions play in discourse and to investigate the relation between metaphorical structure and function (cp Cacciari 1998). Finally, I will address the question of how metaphors can be handled in a discourse model (cp Werth 1999).

References

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