

Investigating characteristic lexical distributions and grammatical patterning in Swedish texts translated from English

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This paper is a work-in-progress report about a study within the field of corpus-based descriptive translation studies. It outlines a contrastive investigation in progress using the English-Swedish Parallel Corpus (ESPC), a combined comparable and parallel corpus of English and Swedish original and translated fiction and non-fiction texts. The paper discusses some initial results of corpus investigations.

The investigation involves studying typical distributions of lexical items and patterns in original and translated texts in the corpus. An example of typical lexical distribution in the fiction part of the ESPC is represented by the very frequent Swedish grammatical word *av* ('of', 'by' etc), which is one and a half times as common in Swedish texts translated from English as in original Swedish texts.

In the investigation, this characteristic lexical distribution is used as a starting point for the search for *patterns* with specific distribution in translated texts: The collocates of the over-represented word are used to give a picture of the constructions of which the word is a part, with the aim of describing possible patterns with specific distribution in translated Swedish texts.

The fact that the ESPC is not only a comparable corpus but also an aligned parallel corpus makes it possible to then track the sources of target text constructions back to the original texts. The final step of the investigation is to describe the paradigm of correspondences between constructions involving characteristically distributed constructions in translations and their actual sources in the original texts.