

Paweł Jacek Golda

*Transfert des unités phraséologiques (collocations) dans la traduction littéraire.
Études sur un corpus du français et sur ses équivalents en italien et en polonais*

SUMMARY

This doctoral thesis aims to examine the interlingual transfer of verbal-nominal collocations in literary translation by analyzing in detail 6,578 examples. The corpus of the thesis consists of the first seven novels by the contemporary French writer Michel Houellebecq, published over a quarter of a century, namely between 1994 and 2019. The corpus includes the novels in their original language — French — and their translations into two other languages — Italian and Polish.

Collocations are an essential and increasingly popular topic in contemporary phraseology (Golda, 2022; Pezik, 2018; Sułkowska, 2017, 2018a, 2019a, 2023a). Within phraseological typologies, collocational combinations are placed near the beginning of the fixedness continuum, on the side of free lexical combinations. Perko (2011: 50) says that the boundary between collocations and more fixed phraseological units is as blurred as between collocations and free lexical connections. Moreover, collocational combinations are minimally phraseological, meaning they are naturally chosen and preferred over free structures that may carry similar meanings (Pezik, 2018: 28-29, 36).

The discussed multi-word combinations are a less stereotypical class of phraseological units, which makes their belonging to the field of phraseology less obvious. According to Legallois and Tutin (2013: 4), linguistic research “often focuses on non-transparent and figurative expressions, which are usually considered prototypical and representative of phraseology, at the expense of a whole set of commodified expressions that are highly productive, such as collocations”⁶.

⁶ « [...] l’accent est souvent mis sur les expressions non compositionnelles et figurées, généralement considérées comme prototypiques et représentatives des locutions, au risque d’éclipser tout un ensemble d’expressions lexicalisées qui apparaissent très productives, comme les collocations » (Legallois & Tutin, 2013 : 4, nous traduisons).

According to Kazlauskienė (2021: 144), collocation is “the frequent meeting of two lexemes that follow each other or are separated by other words”⁷. Diagne (2018: 99-100) says that collocational co-occurrence is “[...] the frequent appearance of these elements at the same time, forming an almost systematic bond between the constituents”⁸. This researcher also notes that this type of word combination “reflects a linguistic idiosyncrasy specific to the language in question”⁹ (Ibid., 99).

This thesis’s primary and most important aim is to identify, name and describe the techniques enabling translators to transpose verbal-nominal collocations from French into two other languages, Italian and Polish. The term translation technique is understood here as “the linguistic means by which the transfer of phraseological units can be accomplished”¹⁰ (Golda & Mężyk, 2021: 138).

The combination of language systems chosen for this study is particularly fascinating and not coincidental. Firstly, Italian, as the first target language, is a Romance language, meaning it belongs to the same linguistic family as the novel’s original language, French. Secondly, the second target language, Polish, belongs to the family of Slavic languages, meaning it is genetically more distant from the source language.

Notably, this thesis presents the regularity in the translators’ use of the observed translation solutions, considering different aspects, subtypes, and categories of verbal-nominal collocations. Among other things, the thesis analyses the influence of the syntactic structure of collocations, their belonging to particular semantic classes, and the preferences of both Italian and Polish literary translators in the choice of particular techniques.

Furthermore, the thesis considers the recurrence of the analyzed units in Michel Houellebecq’s work while analyzing the frequency of occurrence of particular collocation transfer techniques. In other words, the work examines whether the frequency of particular techniques differs for collocations used in the literary material only once, compared to those that appear several times. In addition, the thesis investigates the correlation between the frequency of particular translation techniques and the frequency of collocational combinations in the general French language corpus.

⁷ « consiste en la rencontre fréquente de deux lexies qui se suivent ou sont séparées par d’autres mots » (Kazlauskienė, 2021: 144, nous traduisons).

⁸ « est la cooccurrence habituelle d’items lexicaux. Une habitude d’apparition conjointe qui n’est pas sans créer un lien presque systématique entre les composants » (Diagne, 2018: 99-100, nous traduisons).

⁹ « [...] dénote une idiosyncrasie linguistique qui reflète le ‘propre’ d’une langue donnée » (Diagne, 2018 : 99, nous traduisons).

¹⁰ « les moyens linguistiques à l’aide desquels le transfert des UP peut être assuré » (Golda & Mężyk, 2021 : 138, nous traduisons).

This work consists of three main parts. The first — theoretical — part includes a comprehensive review of the linguistic literature. It presents the essential concepts, terms and definitions in the field of phraseology, presents phraseology as a textual phenomenon, and discusses the issue of translation with a particular focus on phraseotranslation, a new sub-discipline of phraseology that has been proposed by Sułkowska (2013a, 2013b, 2013c, 2016b, 2017, 2018a, 2018b, 2019b, 2022).

The second — methodological — part presents the study's trilingual literary corpus and a comprehensive biography of the writer whose work was the source of the excerpted and then analyzed phraseological units. Furthermore, this part, in detail, describes all the phases that enabled the extraction of the collocational combinations and their later juxtaposition with their Italian and Polish equivalents to mark them inside the proper citations. The results were collected in the form of a trilingual table that juxtaposes all this research data together with additional tags and descriptions that improved the execution of the analysis.

The third — analytical — part consists of two chapters. The first chapter is descriptive and presents fifteen techniques observed in transferring verbal-nominal collocations and examples included in a three-language table with literary text passages. The second section of the third part is numerical. It discusses the frequency of each translation technique, specifying the various aforementioned factors and the categories of units.

In addition, this thesis includes an introduction, a conclusion, a list of cited bibliographical references and an appendix of a dual nature: some of the appended material is physical, and some exist only in virtual form and remain available in the web space.

Keywords: phraseology, phraseological unit, collocation, phraseotranslatology, phraseotranslation, translation, literary translation, Michel Houellebecq