Rendering collocations in German-Greek SI

Η απόδοση των συμφράσεων κατά την ταυτόχρονη διερμηνεία από τη Γερμανική στην Ελληνική

Konstantina Liontou, PhD
Aims

- How do interpreters deal with collocations?
- Are interpreters preoccupied with ST form?
- Are interpreters only interested in preserving ST meaning?
Corpus

- Characteristics
  - Bilingual, parallel, spoken corpus
- Source
  - European Parliament
- Time
  - April 2006-July 2008
- Subject
  - Environment
Methodology

- Downloading of Original German video clips
- Downloading of Original video clips with Greek soundtrack
- Interpretation
- Synchronisation via Windows Movie Maker
  → single video with 2 audio streams
- Transcription via EXMARaLDA (Extensible Markup Language for Discourse Annotation)
Why this corpus?

- Initial corpus designed to study **anticipation**
- **Anticipation** → indication that the collocation has been recognised as such
- **Crucial question:**
  Does a corresponding collocation exist in the target language?
  How does the interpreter deal with such cases?
Corpus Collocations

- 64 collocations involved in anticipation
  - Verb + Nouns + preposition
    → Gewicht legen auf (to attach importance to)
  - (Verb +) Adjective + preposition
    → zuständig sein für (to be responsible for)
  - Idiomatic expressions of various forms
    → jemandem am Herzen liegen ("to lie at somebody’s heart" = to be of importance)
Analysis I

- Vast majority of cases → accurate corresponding expression for German collocation

Specifically

- Use of corresponding collocations when possible
  - Es handelt sich um (to concern) → πρόκειται για
  - Maßnahmen ergreifen (to take measures) → λαμβάνω μέτρα
  - Einen Vorschlag einbringen (to make a suggestion) → κάνω πρόταση
Collocations rendered by simple terms

In case of

- Idiomatic expressions particular to the German language
  - Am Herzen liegen (preoccupy) → απασχολούν

- Other syntagms particular to the German language
  - Sich halten an (to abide by) → τηρώ
Analysis III

- Only in one case did the interpreter not use a corresponding Greek collocation even though it existed.

  - Sein Augenmerk auf etwas richten (to turn one’s attention to sth)
    → “σημειώνω” (to mind, to take into consideration)

  - not
    → “στρέφω την προσοχή μου σε” etc.
Conclusions I

- Interpreter’s primary concern
  → to maintain **ST meaning** in TT

- ST influence can be seen in TT
  → **ST collocations maintained** in case of corresponding TT collocations

- A result of choice?
  → ?
  • attempt for faithfulness
  • effort saving technique
Conclusions II

- No TT collocation even though it existed probably
  → random linguistic choice
  → dictated by time pressure – many simultaneous tasks

- Remaining cases
  → result of restrictions dictated by nature of TL
Rendering collocations in German-Greek SI

Thank you for your attention!

Konstantina Liontou
konstantina.liontou@yahoo.com