

## Metaphor in L1-L2 novice translations

This paper presents a descriptive study of the translation of metaphors found in the Norwegian-English Student Translation Corpus (NEST; <http://clu.uni.no/humfak/nest/>), investigating a total of 287 English translated texts (TT) of 30 different Norwegian source texts (ST). This paper focuses on the translations of three types of metaphors, identified using MIPVU: 1) metaphorical verbs, codified in Norwegian but not necessarily perceived as metaphorical, 2) idioms, which are often culture-specific and 3) potentially deliberate metaphorical expressions such as similes and longer figurative analogies (Nacey, 2013, pp. 168-173; Steen et al., 2010, pp. 168-173).

The informants have Norwegian as their L1, and are advanced L2 learners of the target language (TL) enrolled on a tertiary-level translation course. The STs range from 200 to 900 words and cover many topics and text types, including instructional pamphlets, fictional prose, and newspaper articles. Most STs have multiple translations (mean = 9.5 TTs per ST). An adapted version of procedures proposed by Newmark's (1981, pp. 88-91) for translating metaphor provides the basic analytical framework. Below are examples of each metaphor type, with sample categorizations of two authentic NEST translations:

1	Ordene <u>risser opp</u> den nye tilværelsen	The words <u>cut out</u> the new existence (NEST_Kri_013en.s60)	same TL image
		The words <u>shaped</u> the new way of life (NEST_Kri_001en.s61)	different TL image
2	"kjerringa-mot-strømmen-holding"	attitude of contrariness (NEST_Opp_115en.s38)	literal sense
		"going against the grain attitude" (NEST_Opp_004en.s37)	different TL image
3	som ild med en ring av lys omkring	like fire enclosed by a circle of light (NEST_Nor_013en.s16)	same TL image
		like fire all around within it ... (NEST_Nor_014en.s14)	partially deleted TL image

Access to multiple TTs of the same STs allows for mapping the varying strategies adopted to solve the identical translation challenge. The subsequent analysis and discussion centers on the linguistic and conceptual hurdles metaphor presents for novice L1-L2 translators.

## References

- Nacey, S. (2013). *Metaphors in learner English*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.  
Newmark, P. (1981). *Approaches to translation*. Oxford: Pergamon Press.  
Steen, G. J., Dorst, A. G., Herrmann, J. B., Kaal, A. A., Krennmayr, T., & Pasma, T. (2010). *A method for linguistic metaphor identification: from MIP to MIPVU*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.