

Metaphor in multiple learner translations

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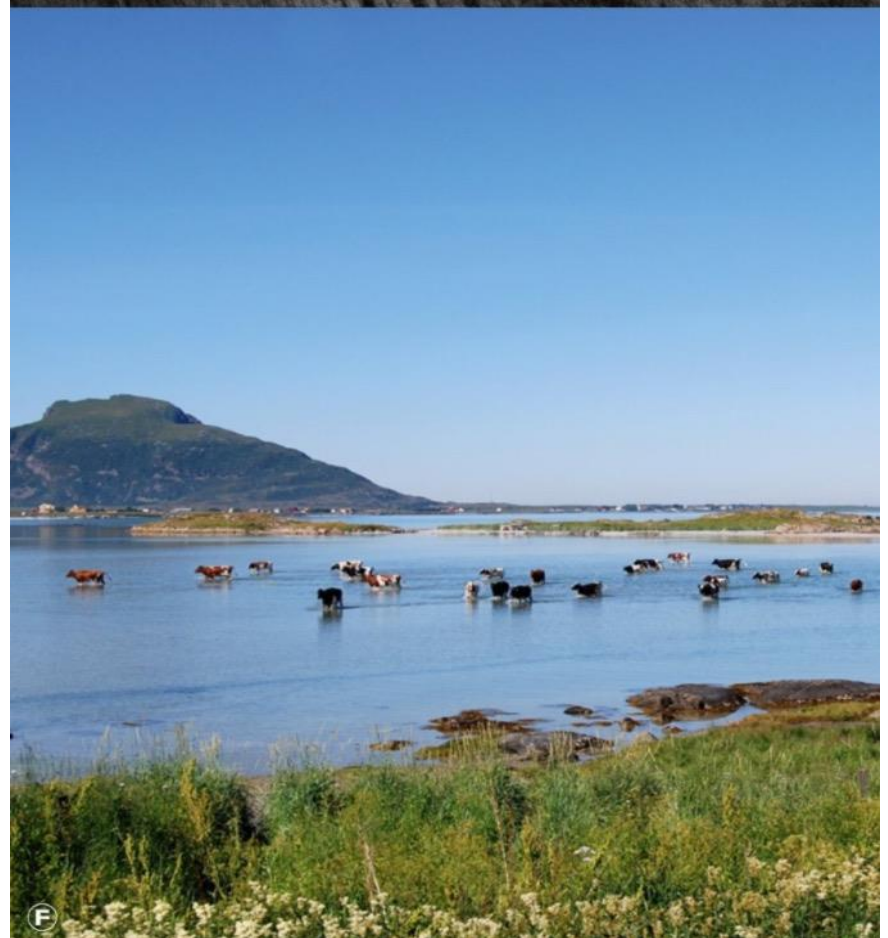
>>> FAGBLADET FOR NORSKE STORFEBØNDER



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Metaphor is a translation problem

- “a kind of ultimate test of any theory of translation” (Newmark 1981: 77)
- “a particularly searching test of the translator’s competence” (Newmark 1981: 77)
- Extent to which metaphor is translatable (e.g. Newmark 1981, 1987)
- Guidelines for metaphor translation (e.g. Newmark 1981)
- Descriptive Translation Studies (e.g. Schäffner 2004, Toury 1995, Fernández et al. 2003)



Norwegian-English Student Translation Corpus (NEST)

- 2005-2013

25 STs

284 TTs

- 4 different Norwegian institutions

Approx. 80 students

- Fakta om Finland
- Kunsten å drikke te
- Englebakken vgs
- Kan laks lide

Graedler (2013, 2014)

Data

1. Metaphorical verbs

Dødslukten **drev** tungt over Europa. (Svano)

Lit: The-death-smell **drifted** heavily over Europe.

2. Metaphorical idioms/collocations

Kirken **stod høyt i ære**... (Grino)

Lit: The-church **stood high in honor**...

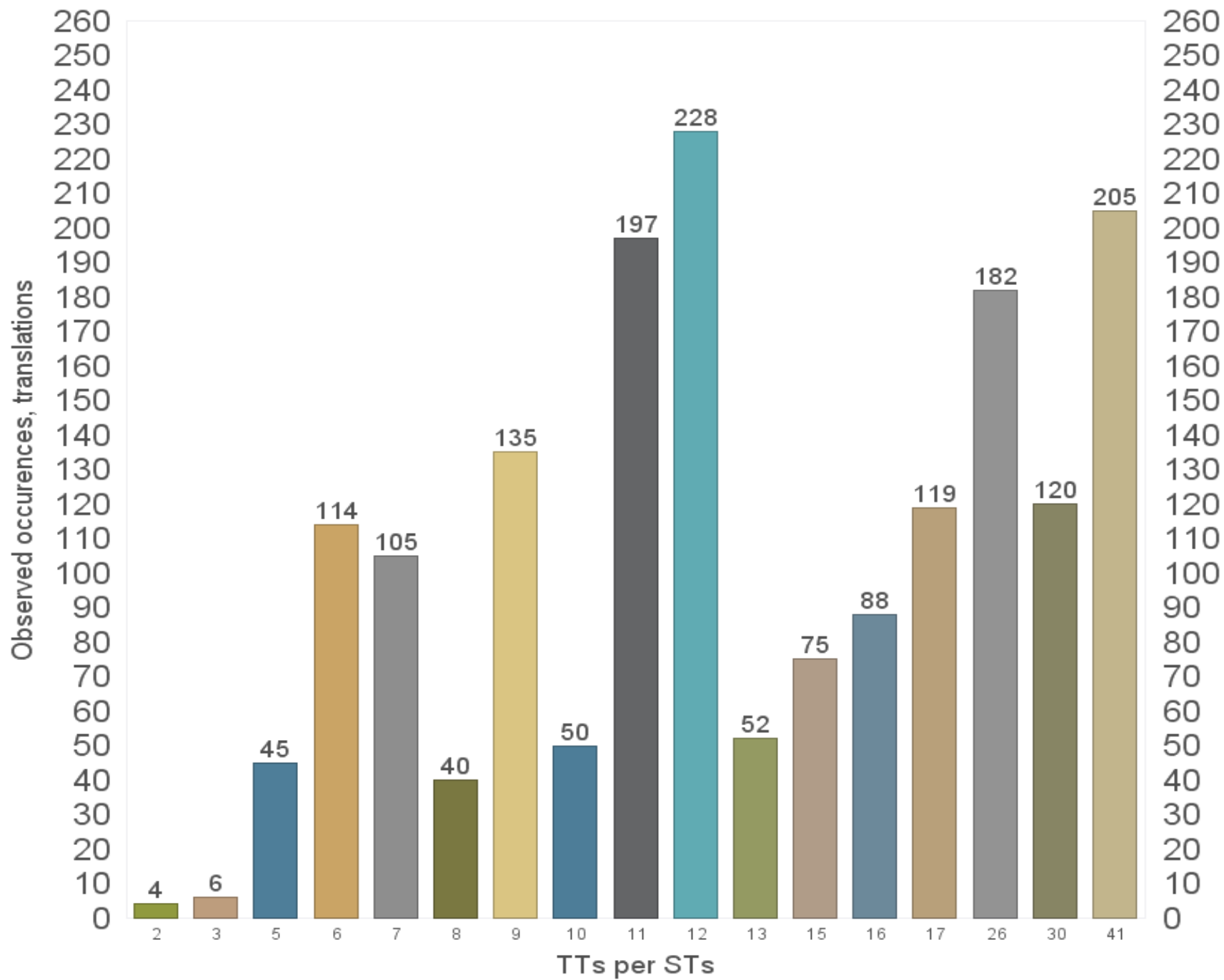
3. Marked metaphors

Amazonas ligger **som et grønt hav rundt oss**. (Imono)

Lit: Amazon lies **like a green sea around us**.



Translated texts per Source text



Initial taxonomy

	Translation strategy	Abbreviation
1	Reproduction of the same SL metaphor in the TL	M → M
2	Replacement of the SL metaphor with a standard TL metaphor	M₁ → M₂
3	Translation of the SL metaphor by simile	M → S
4	Translation of metaphor (or simile) by simile plus sense [a literal gloss]	M/S → S + gloss
5	Conversion of metaphor to sense [a literal paraphrase]	M → P
6	Deletion of metaphor	M → ∅
7	Translation of metaphor by same TL metaphor plus sense [a gloss]	M → M + gloss

Newmark (1998: 88-91)

Negative L1 influence?

...når du kommer hjem med
røde roser på kinnene.

(Strno)

- ...when you come home
with **red roses on you
cheeks.** (Str_150)

Positive L1 influence?

Gjennom å **fokusere** på
ansvar, struktur og
punktlighet... (EngID/EngSP)

- By **focusing** on
responsibility, structure and
punctuality (EngSP_125)

Hypercorrection?

Hvor lenge kunne han greie å **holde** pusten? (Havno)

- For how long could he **keep** his breath? (Hav_125)

(noe som lignet skinnende metall,) det var som ild med en ring av lys omkring [Normo]

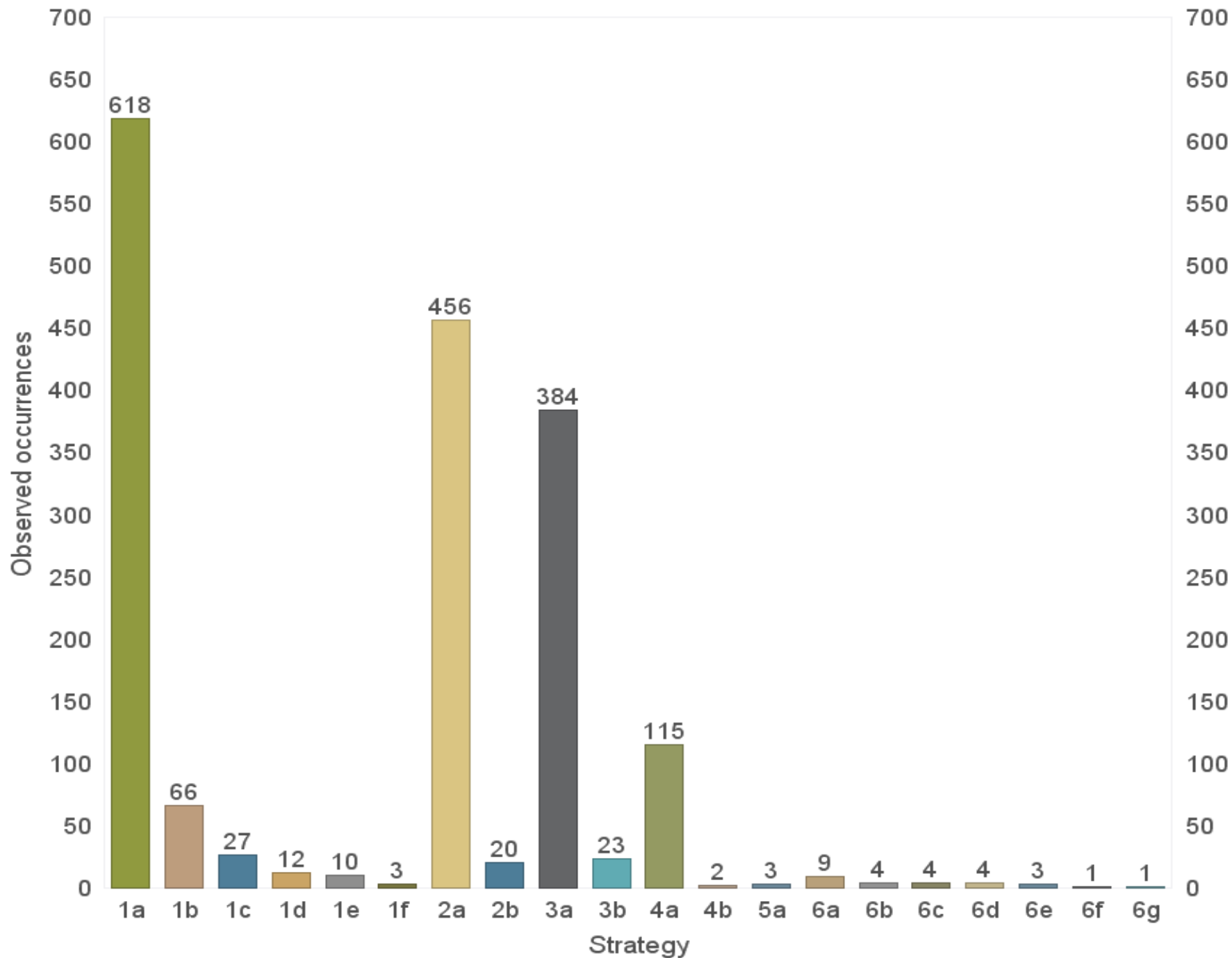
1	as if full of fire, and that from there down he lookes) like fire, and brilliant light surrounded him [Nor_002]	M→M(-/+)
2	as if full of fire; and brilliant light surrounded him [Nor_003]	M→M(-/+)
3	as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness around it [Nor_004]	M→M(-/+)
4	and there was a splendor all around [Nor_005]	M→M(-/+)
5	giving a brilliant light all round [Nor_006]	M→M(+/-)
6	with a ring of fire and light surrounding it [Nor_007]	M→M
7	and brilliant light surrounded him [Nor_008]	M→M(+/-)
8	as a fire surrounded by light [Nor_010]	M→M(-)
9	as if full of fire, and with a ring of brilliant light surrounding it [Nor_011]	M→M(+)
10	like fire enclosed by a circle of light [Nor_013]	M→M
11	like fire all around within it [Nor_014]	M→M(-)

Initial taxonomy

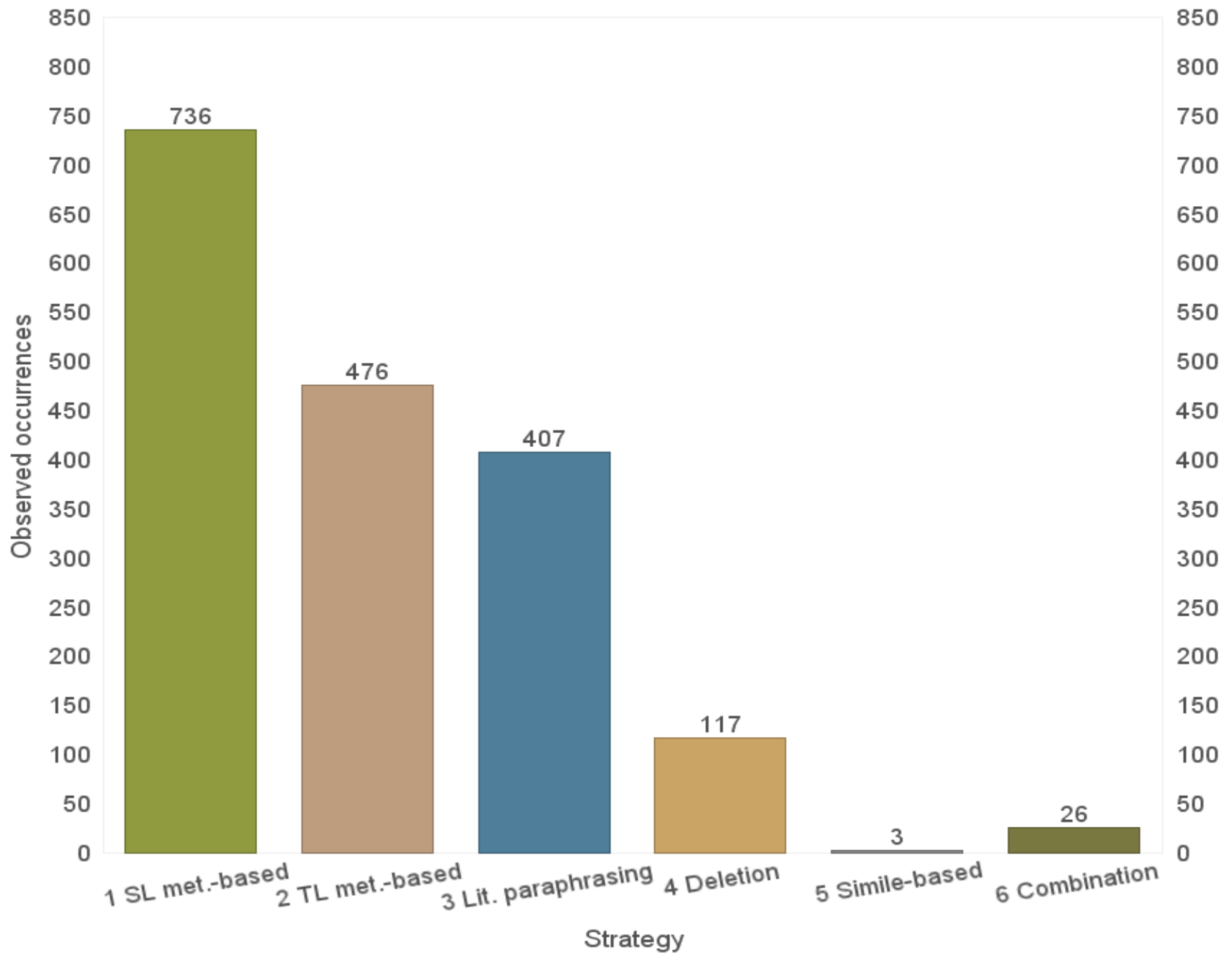
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Newmark (1998: 88-91)

Translation strategies (Specified)



Translation strategies (general)



Verbs: Example

å gi = to give

De vanligste influensatypene som gir epidemier, er type A og B.

(Infno)

De vanligste influensatypene som **gir** epidemier,
Lit: The most normal influenza-types that **give** epidemics

er type A og B.

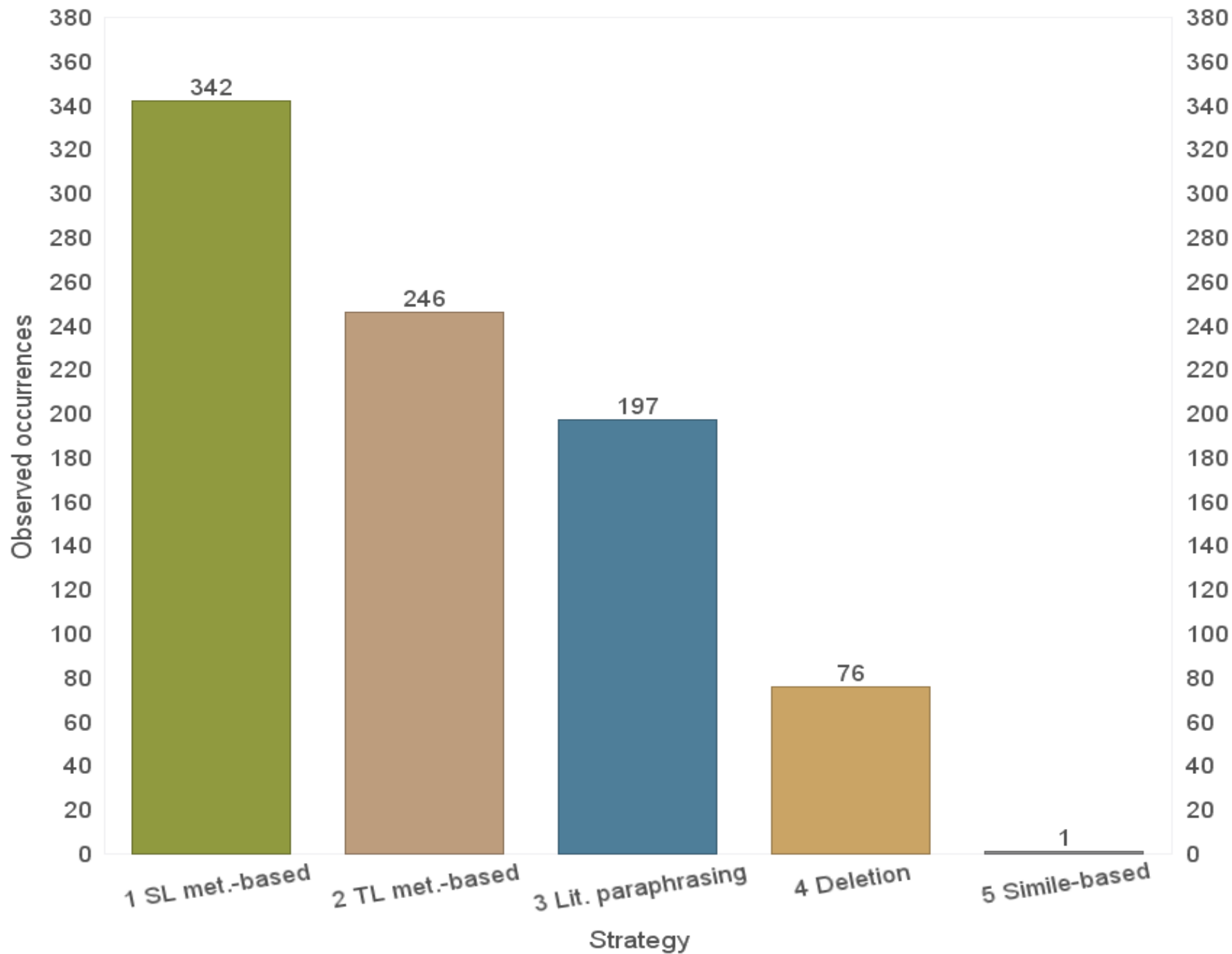
are type A and B.

De vanligste influensatypene som gir epidemier, er type A og B. (Infno)

1	The most common types of flu are types A and B. (Inf_147)	M→∅
2	The most usual types of influenza giving epidemics are type A and B. (Inf_149)	M→M
3	The most common flue types that give epidemics are type A and B. (Inf_150)	M→M
4	The most common types of influenza that gives epidemics, are type A and B. (Inf_151)	M→M
5	The most common types of influenza that result in epidemics are Type A and B. (Inf_152)	M→P
6	The most common types of influenza to cause epidemics, are types A and B. (Inf_153)	M→P
7	The most common types of influenza to cause epidemics, are types A and B. (Inf_154)	M→P
8	The most common epidemic causing influenzas are types A and B. (Inf_155)	M→P
9	The most normal types of influenza that render epidemics are type A and B. (Inf_156)	M→M2



General translation strategies (Verbs)



Idioms / collocations: Example

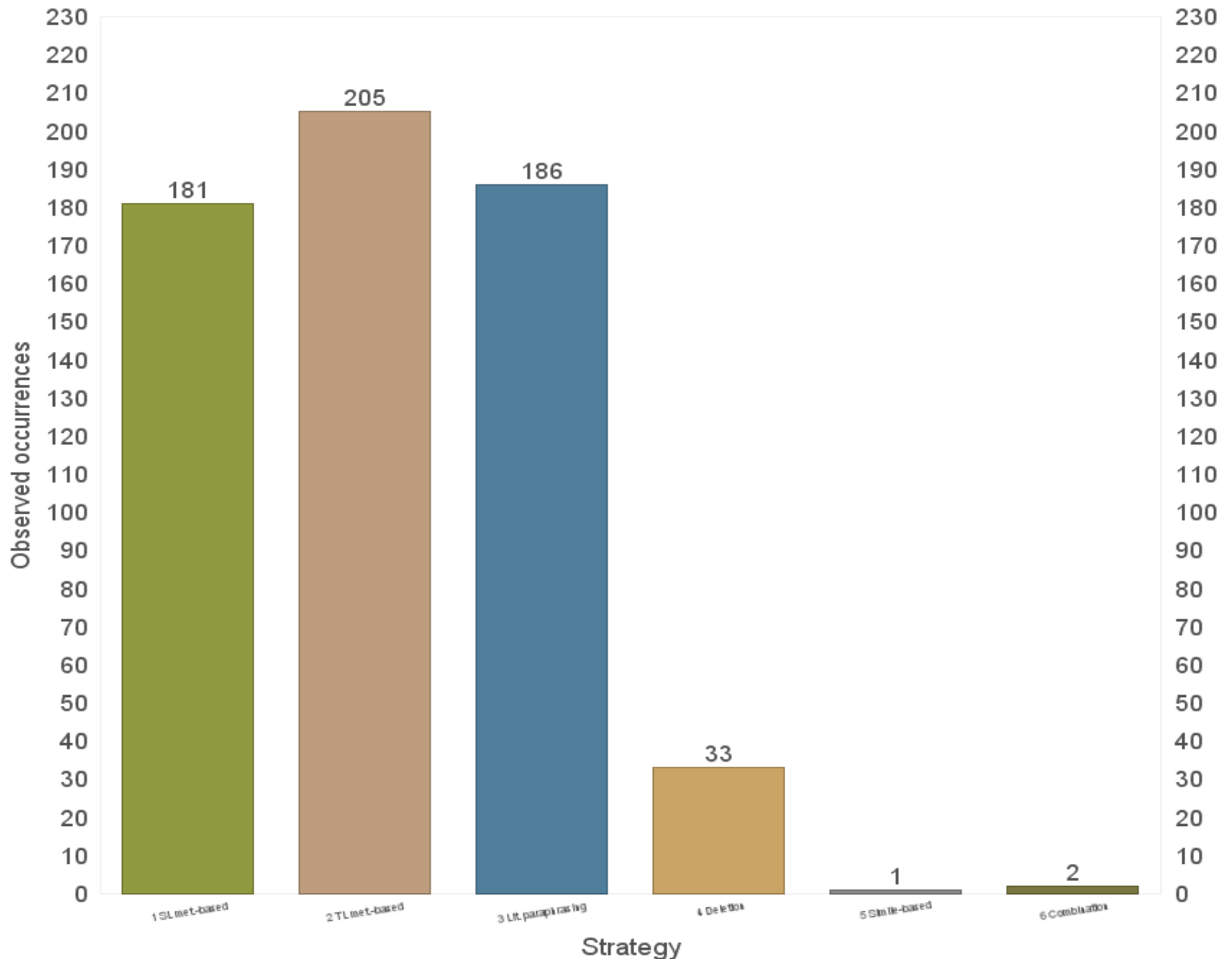
Konrad kunne se ham for seg: Bøyd fram over de tynne beina, den enorme dårelokken som truet med å tippe ham forover, killersmilet som snart bare var **en pant på** en tid som var glemt. (Duono)

som snart bare var **en pant på** en tid som var glemt
Lit: that soon only was **a mortgage on** a time that was forgotten
(proof of)

en pant på (en tid som var glemt)

1	a small remnant of (a forgotten time) [Duo_155]	M→P
2	a sign of (a nearly forgotten past) [Duo_147]	M→M2
3	worth a penny at (a time which would be forgotten) [Duo_148]	M→M-
4	a token of (a forgotten period of his time) [Duo_150]	M→M2
5	like a pledge of (a forgotten era) [Duo_151]	M→S
6	only a memory of (a forgotten time) [Duo_152]	M→P
7	a relic of (times long gone) [Duo_153]	M→M2
8	proof of (a forgotten time) [Duo_154]	M→P
9	a mortgage on (a time almost forgotten) [Duo_156]	M→M

General translation strategies (Idioms/collocations)



Marked metaphors: Example(s)

Hvorfor heter det surstoff? Det er jo ikke surt, det er søtt, selv i Bangkok er lufta søt som honning. (Havno & Hanno)

Hvorfor heter det **surstoff**? Det er jo ikke **surt**, det er **søtt**
Why call it **oxygen**? It is yes not **sour**, it is **sweet**
(**sour-stuff**)

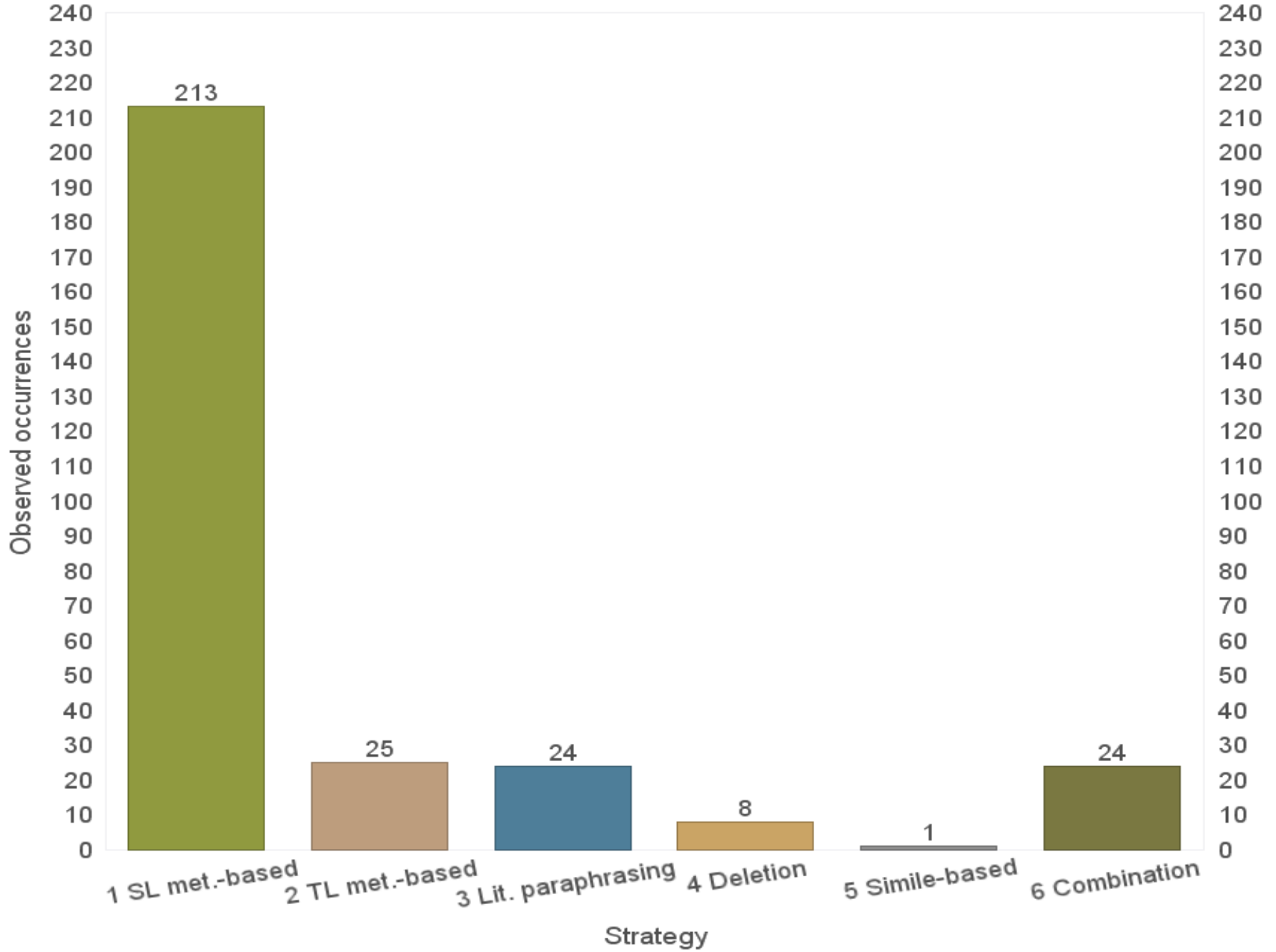
selv i Bangkok er lufta søt som honning.
even in Bangkok is the air sweet as honey.

Hvorfor heter det **surstoff**? Det er jo ikke **surt**, det er **søtt**

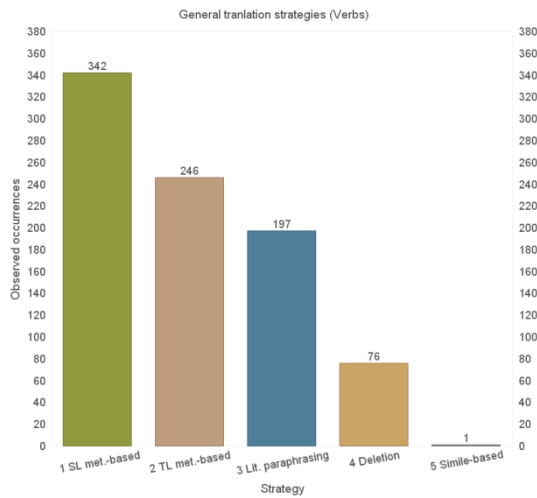
1	Why be called oxygen? It is not acid, it is sweet (Hav_125)	M→M
2	Ø (Hav_130)	M→Ø
3	Why does oxygen refer to the sour taste of acids? It is not sour, it is sweet (Hav_131)	M→M + <u>gloss</u>
4	Why does the name "oxygen" refer to the sour taste of acids? It is not sour, it is sweet. (Hav_132)	M→M + gloss
5	Ø (Han_134)	M→Ø
6	Why is it called oxygen anyways? It is such a clinically sounding word, not descriptive of the air we are breathing (Hav_135)	M→P

(selv i Bangkok) er lufta søt som honning

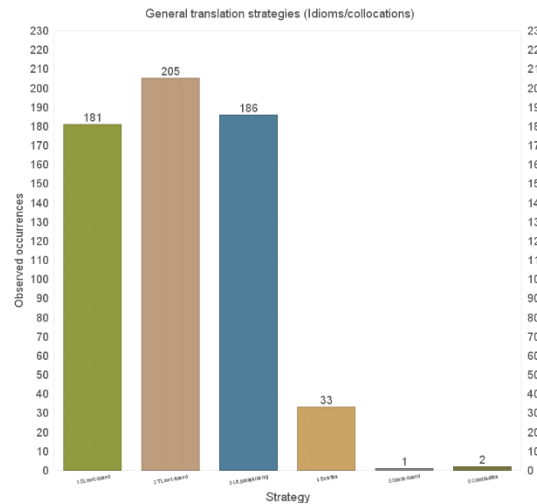
1	(even in Bangkok) the air is sweet as honey (Hav_125)	M→M
2	Ø (Hav_130)	M→Ø
3	(even in Bangkok) the air is sweet as honey (Hav_131)	M→M
4	(Even in Bangkok) the air is sweet like honey (Hav_132)	M→M
5	Ø (Han_134)	M→Ø
6	sweet as honey (even here in Bangkok) (Hav_135)	M→M



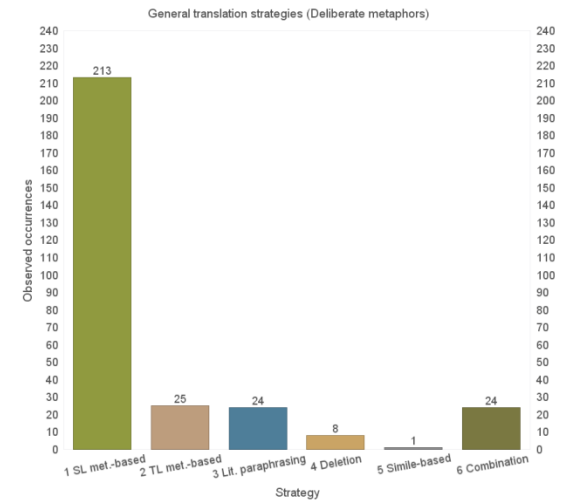
General translation strategies across metaphor types



Verbs



Idioms /
Collocations



Marked metaphors

Concluding remarks

- Simile rare
- Glosses rare
- General translation strategies = more realistic
- Different types of metaphor trigger varied translation strategy patterns.

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