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CLARIN and
translation
studies

A micro
example

Conclusions

Towards a Research Infrastructure for Translation Studies

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The CLARIN mission

"to advance research in humanities and social sciences by giving researchers unified single sign-on access to a platform which integrates language-based resources and advanced tools at a European level."

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Virtual Language Observatory

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Translation studies

"the discipline which concerns itself with the theory and practice of translation" (Hatim, 2001: p. 3)

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Translation studies

"the discipline which concerns itself with the theory and
practice of translation" (Hatim, 2001: p. 3)

Methodology: a combination of close reading and studies of
relevant (cultural) context.

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Translation studies

"the discipline which concerns itself with the theory and practice of translation" (Hatim, 2001: p. 3)

As texts are concerned, this often means comparisons:

- source text – translation
- translations – originals in target language
- different translations of same source texts

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Translation studies and corpus linguistics

- corpora as resources for translation
- corpora for studies of 'translationese'
- corpora for studies of 'translation universals'
- ...

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Macroanalysis

"The underlying assumption is that by exploring the literary record writ large, we will better understand the context in which individual texts exist and thereby better understand those individual texts." (Jockers, 2013: p. 27)

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Data

Source text
Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness*, 1899
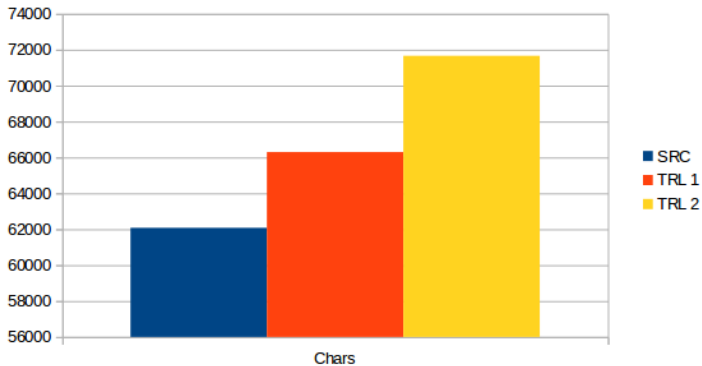first published as a serial in *Blackwood's Magazine*

Note: first 40 pages only, about one third of the full novel.

Translations
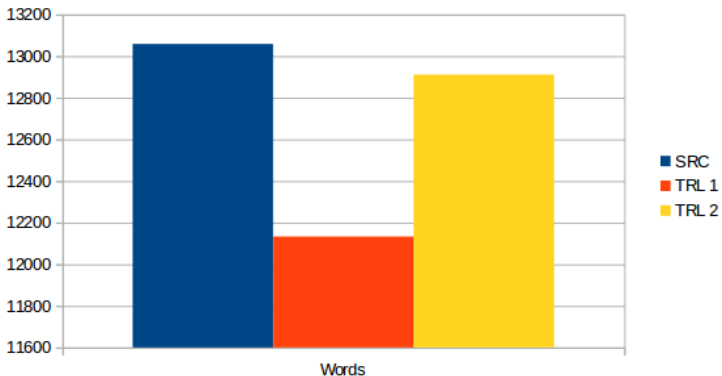Margaretha Odelberg. Biblioteksförlaget, 1960 (W&W 1983)
Einar Heckscher. Lindelöws, 2006 (rev. 2013)

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A comparison by characters

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A comparison by words

What, then, could be the cause for the difference?

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What is normal?

Word rates from a few LinES corpora.

Corpus	Word rate	Char rate
Gordimer	1.039	1.178
Auster	0.987	1.111
Bellow	0.966	1.091
TRL 1	0.929	1.067
TRL 2	0.988	1.154

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What is normal?

Corpus	Word rate	Char rate
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How are the rate differences distributed?
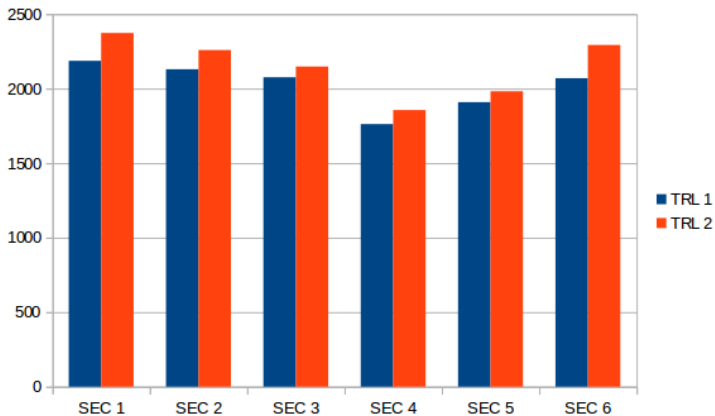
In fact, the general tendency is the same over the text as a whole.

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Hypothesis

Heckscher's translation has lower density than Odelbergs and
more instances of explicitation.

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Vertical cuts based on length differences 1

SRC: He was the only man of us who *still followed the sea.*
TRL1: Han var den ende av oss som *var kvar på sjön.*
TRL2: Han var den ende av oss som *fortfarande "vigde sitt liv åt havet".*

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Vertical cut 2

SRC: The fascination of the abomination – *you know.*
TRL1: Det gräsligas lockelse, *ni vet.*
TRL2: Det vederstyggligas lockelse – *ni vet vad jag menar.*

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Vertical cut 3

SRC: What redeems it *is the idea* only.

TRL1: Det enda försonande *är idén.*

TRL2: Det enda försonande *skulle vara en eventuell idé då.*

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Possible causes

- the translators (?)
- the translation norms current at the time of translation (?)
- the publishing house (?)
- ...

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What is needed

1 lots of translations

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What is needed

1. lots of translations from lots of source texts

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What is needed

1. lots of translations from lots of source texts
2. alignment tools at paragraph and sentence level

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What is needed

1. lots of translations from lots of source texts
2. alignment tools at paragraph and sentence level
3. support for translation spotting

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What is needed

1. lots of translations from lots of source texts
2. alignment tools at paragraph and sentence level
3. support for translation spotting
4. powerful search tools that can display N parallel snippets for large N

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Conclusions

What is needed

1. lots of translations from lots of source texts
2. alignment tools at paragraph and sentence level
3. support for translation spotting
4. powerful search tools that can display N parallel snippets for large N
5. annotation tools (and taxonomies)

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What is needed

1. lots of translations from lots of source texts
2. alignment tools at paragraph and sentence level
3. support for translation spotting
4. powerful search tools that can display N parallel snippets for large N
5. annotation tools (and taxonomies)
6. worked out workflows illustrating good practice

The end

Thank you!