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Abstract

The growing power and influence of the English language are the major reasons for linguistic changes in other languages. Various languages are changing their structure and acquiring new lexical items under the influence of the English language. In translations from English, this interference is even stronger. Different studies have analysed various types of translations in order to categorise the interference and discover which language levels are most susceptible to the influence of the source text. The present study analyses a corpus of newspaper articles translated from English into Italian in order to see which language level is most affected and whether these translated texts contain specific traits called translation universals. For a better overview, the translated articles were compared to their source text equivalents.

Keywords: *corpus analysis, translation universals, linguistic interference,newspaper articles, source language, target language, English as a global language.*

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

With the ongoing process of globalisation, the world has become increasingly connected. In order to enable this connection, a need for a mutual language of understanding was born. Due to the great power of English speaking countries such as the USA and the UK, the English language has become the language that connects the world, the global language. In todays' world, there are three times more non-native speakers than native speakers of English (Crystal, 2003). The English language has gradually entered all possible domains, from information technology, to science, from business to fashion. Regardless of the country or the nationality, the English language has somehow infiltrated all other world languages. The linguistic influence of English can be seen in many aspects of language, like borrowings, code switching, new vocabulary items and other. This linguistic influence is in most cases subtle and difficult to notice, but research has been conducted in order to find the aspects of languages that have been influenced and categorise them.

In the context of English as a global language, it is also important to mention the significance of preserving other languages. Many countries like France and Germany, have established new policies and laws in order to preserve their language and protect it from the linguistic influence of English. Although English is a widely spoken language, it cannot be disregarded that there are also people who do not speak English. For that reason, it is the job of translators to translate news, book, manuals and other sources of information into other languages. Nevertheless, even with translations, the English language manages to infiltrate other languages. Translators, for various reasons, transfer elements from the source language into the target language.

This study will deal with the issue of linguistic influence on translated texts and the classification of various aspect of language that are being transferred from the source language, in this case English, to the target language, in this case Italian. The study will be based on a corpus analysis of journal articles from different newspapers covering various topics from the business and politics world.

2. English as a global language

In the recent years, the English language has increasingly entered all domains of the human life. However, the beginning of the process of English becoming the global language dates back to the late 1980s, (cf. Jenkins, 2015) when English was used for mutual communication among students of different backgrounds in London, and comprised a number of non-standard forms, deriving from the speaker's native language. Today, the term English as a global language, or *lingua franca*, is defined as "the use of English among speakers of different first languages" (Seidlhofer, 2005:339). In other words, the English language, used by speakers of other languages as a means of communication, is coloured with different characteristics that have been transferred directly from the speaker's native language. The global language is not the language spoken by native speakers of English, but the language of non-native speakers of English, whose English in constantly under the influence of their L1. Moreover, as there is a growing number of non-native speakers of English, there is also a growing number of varieties of the English language, each characterised by some aspects from different L1s. Some of these varieties are considered official languages in their countries, e.g. Indian English.

Apart from the global language being influenced by the characteristics of the speakers' L1s, it is important to mention that, due to the widespread use of English, many world languages started to acquire some characteristics of the English language, changing their own. The English language has infiltrated all domains of the everyday life, even those previously dominated by other languages, like German in science, and technology, Italian in cuisine, and French in fashion. These domains, and many others like medicine, environment or academia, are under the influence of the English language; acquiring vocabulary items, sentence

structures and discourse patterns from English. News reports, the Internet, movies, everyday life, but also science and technology, are domains that are overflown with information deriving from the English language. News reporters deliberately keep (or use) vocabulary items from the English language when talking about politics or world economy. On the Internet, the vast majority of information is provided in the English language. Movies, music and other types of media, influence the way of thinking and thus the way of speaking, especially of younger populations. Different studies (cf. Bokor, 2018; Graddol 2000; Nunberg 2001 in Bokor 2018) show that the majority of information stored on the Internet is available in English.

Even in the field of science, there is a growing concern for the decreasing or even lacking number of articles and papers published in the authors' native languages. Publishing articles in English allows authors to target a wider audience and acquire worldwide recognition. A study by Hamel (2007) shows in detail how the English language is increasingly dominating in the field of science, by analysing various scientific journals, like *Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée*. He states that from 2003 till 2006, there was not a single article written in any other language (or in this case French).

The growing power of the English language has both advantages and disadvantages. On one hand, the widespread use of English allows for mutual understanding and communication among people from all around the globe. Pandarangga (2015) compiles numerous arguments that are in favour of English being the lingua franca. It is the language chosen as a representative in various domains, global communication, education and professional advancement. The business world and the politics world depend on the use of English to achieve and maintain intelligibility. (Graddol, 1997 as cited in Pandarangga, 2015). In other words, it connects the world in a way to enable different countries to establish mutual understanding and solve various problems and differences, thus avoiding conflict.

On the other hand, the disadvantages of today's spread of English are not to be disregarded. Having a language that is overtaking all domains of the human life, leads to a situation where other languages around the globe in jeopardy (Tsuda, 2008); and losing other languages means losing part of cultural heritage (Haynes, 2010). Moreover, having only one dominant language in the world, leads to various types of discrimination and inequality among speakers of that language and those who do not speak it. In addition, even among speakers of a language, there is also the distinction between native and non-native speakers. In many cases, native speakers will have an advantageous position in respect to the non-native speakers. Clark and Paran (2007) showed this advantageous position in the field of education. According to their study, both students and employers considered being a native speaker as a highly important characteristic of a language teacher. A more recent study by Mahboob and Golden (2013) showed that even job advertisements discriminated against non-native speakers of English.

House (2003), however, underlines the important distinction between *language for communication* (in this case English) and *language for identification* (any other language, English included, which defines one's identity and association with a specific group of people). According to the author, the English language, although widely used for a purpose of establishing communication, cannot be classified as a language of identification (except, of course, for speakers whose L1 is English), because speakers of other languages will identify themselves with their native languages and cultures.

The dominance of the English language had evoked different feelings and attitudes. A study by Gayton (2016) shows that attitudes towards the dominance of the English language differ. Part of the participants from this study state their concern about the decreasing number of learners of other languages. Language learners are aware of the power of English and feel obligated to learn the language. The rest of the participants do not show concern, rather, they

are well aware of the importance of learning and knowing the English language. In an earlier study on Italian, Pulcini (1997) reports open and positive attitudes towards the spread and dominance of the English language, which had granted "Italian the fame of a democratic language" (Pulcini, 1997:81). However, a more recent study (Andronache, 2014), indicates that these positive attitudes towards the fast spread of the English language are actually limited in number and based on certain criteria like professional advancement, age and personal interests.

2.1. Linguistic interference in translation

The world and the universe are comprised of different discoveries and a wide range of knowledge related to them. This knowledge is transferred from person to person, from generations to generations by means of language. However, not all knowledge is available in all the languages. Hence the translators, transfer knowledge from one language to another. Translations enable the transition of information and communication between speakers of different languages. Translations allow access to world knowledge, but also help humanity understand intercultural aspects. However, translators often encounter various difficulties in their process of translation. Their job is to transfer a message from one language to another, as accurately and faithfully as possible. They also need to adhere to the principle of equivalence (Baker, 1993).

The main purpose of translation is to convey the idea proposed by the author of the original text. However, conveying this idea or message, without interfering with the target text can sometimes cause various problems. As Baker (2011) explains, words and texts possess specific characteristics in the source language; they have a personality embedded in

the language that cannot be simply transferred. Translators encounter certain difficulties at different linguistic levels, from the word level to the discourse level and beyond. These problems arise, in the majority of cases, from cultural differences that lead to the lack of equivalence between languages (Baker, 2011). Jakobson noted that in interlingual translation "there is no full equivalence between code-units, while messages may serve as adequate interpretations of code-units" (Jakobson, 1959:233). The problems of the lack of equivalence among different languages and the difficulties that arise when translating a text have largely contributed to the field of translation studies, and corpus analysis of translated and original texts. The vast research conducted in this field has come to different conclusions regarding the linguistic interference present in translated texts, as well as the existence of *translation universals.* According to Baker (1993:243), translation universals are „linguistic features which typically occur in translated rather than original texts and are thought to be independent of the influence of the specific language pairs involved in the process of translation." In other words, they are characteristics of a translated text that were not present before the process of translation. These characteristics do not reflect neither the source language nor the target language, and they are universal to all the world languages. Some of these universals are *explicitation, normalisation, simplification* and *avoidance of repetition.* However, not all scholars share the same opinion regarding translation universals. Toury (in Mauranen and Kujamaki, 2004) underlines the importance of differentiating between finding regularities in translation and claiming these regularities are its product. Conveying the author's message, taking into consideration problems of equivalence and its absence, knowing the cultural aspects of the source text culture and the target text culture are only some of the challenges translators face.

2.2.   The influence of English on translations

Nowadays, the majority of translations either have English as their source language or as their target language, depending on the target audience. Due to this massive translation from and into English, languages have started to change. Different languages around the world have started to acquire some of the characteristics of the English language as their own. Mostly lexical items, but also syntactic and pragmatic features from the English language have slowly been impacting other world languages through all possible ways such as media, technology, social networking and translation. Through the translation of various texts, from scientific papers to newspaper articles and user manuals, world languages are slowly changing. Through a corpus based analysis of numerous types of texts (articles, paper, news reports, subtitles, etc.), many researchers have categorized the levels at which the linguistic interference occurs. In a majority of cases (cf. Bernardini & Ferraresi, 2001; Gottlieb, 1999; Pulcini et al., 2012) the biggest amount of linguistic interference occurs at the lexical level, followed by the morphological and syntactical. Lexical borrowings allow the implementation of English vocabulary items into other languages. In some cases, lexical borrowings are used due to lack of equivalence in the target language, but also because they add value and prestige to the target text. In this case, it is possible to talk about language enrichment, that is, the vocabulary items become more numerous and the language evolves. However, various problems may arise. Translators have to take into consideration the existence of false friends. Words may have different meanings depending in different languages. For example, the English word sympathetic, differs from the French word sympathique (Baker, 2011). Such difficulties are present at all language levels. Translators need to focus on word order, collocations, idioms, tenses, cultural differences and other aspects.

The problems encountered by translators combined with the growing power of the English language, lead to linguistic interference in translations. In order to understand the effect the English has on other languages, numerous analyses of translations have been conducted. Regardless of the extensive research on the topic, the influence of English on other languages is a continuous process that creates the need for further analyses.

2.3. Previous research

It is clear that the English language has great influence on other languages. One of the ways in which English is becoming part of other languages is through translation. Translated texts tend to maintain some characteristics of the original text in such way enabling words from the source text to enter the target language. Such is the case with the Italian language, which is slowly acquiring various lexical items and some morphological and syntactic characteristics of the English language. The Anglicisation of the Italian language occurs through the translations of various texts, primarily newspaper articles. Newspaper articles are widely accessible to the public and contain huge amounts of information. Since newspapers publish on daily basis, a number of articles must be translated from some other language (in the majority of cases English) in a short period. Due to limited time but also deliberate use of English words or syntactic structures (since the use of foreign words, especially English, is considered to add prestige to the target language), newspaper articles show characteristics of the English language and contain numerous foreign lexical items (Ondelli & Viale, 2010).

As previously mentioned, a large number of studies have been conducted on newspaper articles to confirm this phenomenon. The majority of these studies are corpora analyses of translated Italian newspaper articles, taken from different daily newspapers (*La Repubblica, Il*

Corriere della Sera, Il Sole 24 ore, Economy etc.) compared to either English newspaper articles or similar Italian newspaper articles.

Musacchio (2005) analysed translated newspaper articles that dealt with economics. Her study focused primarily on the identification of translation universals and their presence in Italian translated articles. It was shown that translations are indeed influenced by the source language (English) and that this influence is not limited to the lexical level. On a syntactical level, the influence of English can be found in syntactic constructs, repetition and frequency of cohesive links (Musacchio, 2005). The same author (Musacchio, 2004) conducted a study using language service provider (LSP) translations of newspaper articles, where she identified some of the general characteristics of Italian translated texts. These characteristics were primarily focused on the discourse level of the text. According to her study, translated sentences were slightly longer than source text sentences, and consequently, Italian translated articles were longer then the English articles. Furthermore, the disposition of paragraph in translated articles resembles the disposition from the source text, which differs from paragraph disposition in Italian original texts. The author concludes, however, that Italian translated text take into consideration the characteristics of the target language and the influence of English on syntax and discourse is limited.

Aresti (2012) analysed all the sections from one Italian daily newspaper, *Il Corriere della sera*, from a lexical point of view. In this study, Aresti showed that a great number of lexical items remained in the English language, with the majority of these examples being part of the economy and business section. According to his research, the influence of English on Italian translated text is primarily on the lexical level, which is due to the widespread use of business related lexical items.

Ondelli and Viale (2010) also presented the results of a corpus analysis of various journal articles examining different linguistic levels and concentrating on translation universals. The

scope of their study was to confirm the translation universals and examine the existence of a "language of translations" which differs from standard language. With this research, they concluded that the lexical level was under the most influence of the English language. However, in their study they also noted the extensive use of grammatically appropriate forms that were not frequently used in the spoken language. Although outdated grammar books dictate these forms, translated texts tend to follow them strictly in a number of cases.

More recently, Ferrari (2017) examined the use of English adapted lexical items in newspaper articles. He divided the English lexical items according to the years of their first use (before 1960, from 1960 to 1990, after 2000). He concluded that that the majority of lexical items used in newspaper articles belonged to the period before 2000, and taking into consideration that the results do not show the extensive use of English lexical items, that the process of Anglicisation of the Italian language was not as intense as it seemed.

Finally, Furiassi (2018) analysed newspaper articles from Italian magazines *La Stampa, La Repubblica* and *Il Corriere della sera*. For this study, a large corpus of articles was created, using archived articles from the 19th century to the present day. The purpose of this study was to analyse the use of false phraseological anglicisms (concentrating on two examples, *I know my chickens* and *fly down)*. He concluded that false phraseological anglicisims were in fact a recent phenomenon entering the Italian language, able to perform specific illocutionary acts.

3. The present study

Inspired by previous research on the topic and interest in translation, this study will follow previous studies by different scholars in order to discover which language levels are most prone to linguistic influence in translation. This study was conducted with the hypothesis that the English language does influence the Italian language in translated journal articles on different language levels. It was also hypothesized that translated texts would show some characteristics typical of all translated texts (translation universals).

3.1. Research questions

For the purposes of this study, the following research questions were formed:

1. Which language level is most susceptible to linguistic interference?
2. Do translated journal articles contain characteristics of translation universals (simplification, explicitation, normalisation)?

3.2. Aims

With the increasing influence of the English language norm, the prestige that the English language holds and the need for rapid publication, newspaper magazines (from non-English speaking countries, e.g. Italy) translate articles from world-known English newspaper magazines. Such magazines are *The New York Time, News24, The Economist*, and the less popular ones such as *Hindustantimes, NZ Herald, Kyiv Post, The Jerusalem Post, The Tablet*.

The main purpose of this study is to find whether translated journal articles are characterised by linguistic interference from the source text. This study is interested in finding which level of language is most affected by the source text and whether the translated texts are characterised by the presence of translation universal.

3.3.   Research method

For the purposed of this study, a corpus of 50 articles has been compiled (25 articles written in the English language and 25 corresponding translated articles). The majority of these articles are from the business and politics section with several articles from the culture section. The articles translated in Italian were taken from Italian daily newspapers *Il Corriere della Sera, La Repubblica,* and *Il Sole 24ore.* The articles contain the names of the writer and the translator; however, the source was not provided. The original texts were found by searching the author and inserting key words from the translated article. Some of the sources for the English articles were *Hindustantimes, NZ Herald, Kyiv Post, The Jerusalem Post, The Tablet* and other. The chosen articles are mostly from 2018 with several examples from 2017, in order to investigate the current trend of Anglicisation in the newspapers. In order to avoid the possibility of choosing articles that were not translated from English but some other languages, only the articles with clearly stated authors were taken into consideration.

4. Results

For the purpose of this study, 25 English newspaper articles and 25 newspaper articles translated in Italian were analysed. Translated articles were taken from Italian daily newspapers, mostly from *Il Corriere della sera* and *La Repubblica*. Contrary to expectations, these articles were not frequently found in the papers. On a weekly basis, newspapers posted less than one translated article. In the majority of cases, these articles covered topics concerning the political situation in the world, especially the Middle East, and America. Overall, translated texts tended to represent the source text and the sentence structure as closely as possible. The only way in which the structure of the translated text differed from the source text was the sentence length. Translated texts favoured joining two or more shorter sentences into longer ones by means of coordination or subordination. This phenomenon represents the Italian tendency to write long and complex sentences. The average number of words in the source articles was 21.7 while translated articles had an average of 24.5 words per sentence. Although translated sentences are somewhat longer compared to sentences from the source texts, original Italian articles would show even bigger differences. Apart from joining more sentences into a longer one, the structure of the translated texts followed the one of the source texts. Furthermore, due to merging sentences together, the translated texts presented a lower overall number of sentences. Also, in some cases, whole paragraphs from the source text were deleted in the process of translation. Surprisingly, regardless of the deleted paragraphs, the number of words in translated articles is still higher in comparison to the source articles. The analysis of the articles was made using the *Advanced Text Content Analyser.* Information about word count and average sentence length is shown in the table below.

	Number of articles	Words	Sentences	Average numer of words per sentence
English newspaper articles	25	25,641	1187	21.7
Italian translated newspaper articles	25	25,912	1061	24.5

Table 1. Number of article, words, sentences and words per sentence in the analysed corpus.

Furthermore, translated texts were in the majority of cases inconsistent in the use of particular structures and forms from the source texts. The translated articles in some cases follow the paragraphing of the source text, the sentence order and structure, and the particular choice of vocabulary items, while in other cases they do not. Examples are shown further in the results section according to specific categories.

In addition, translated articles in all cases contained a short introduction that summarized the whole article in two to three sentences, which was not present in the source text.

The results were also analysed with reference to the translation universals proposed by Laviosa-Braithwait (1998). According to the author, all translated texts share similar characteristics that fall under certain chategories (explicitation, normalisation, simplification and disambiguation, discourse transfer and distinctive distribution of target language items). The results showed that these universals were present in the analysed articles.

Overall, translated articles did show various characteristics of the source text, which indicated that Italian translated texts, were prone to the influence of English source articles.

4.1. Lexical level

Evidence that Italian translated articles are under the influence of the English language was mostly found at the lexical level. In the 25 translated articles, there is a high amount of both English loan words and English loan translations. Loan words and loan translations are the most evident form of linguistic interference from the English language since the spelling and meaning of the following examples do not exist in the standard Italian language. The English word *leader* (followed by the compound *leadership*) is the most frequently used loan word, appearing 11 times throughout the articles. The Italian counterparts (*capo, direttore)* for the English word *leader* is rarely used in the translation.

e.g. 1 Indignant European <u>leaders</u> have vowed to keep the deal in place without Washington's participation, but the early evidence suggests European and other companies will step back from Iran to avoid any risk of lost access to far more lucrative US markets.

e.g. 1 I <u>leader</u> dei Paesi europei, indignati dal ritiro americano, hanno promesso di tener fede all'accordo anche senza la partecipazione di Washington, ma le ultime voci suggeriscono che le aziende europee si ritireranno dall'Iran per evitare qualunque rischio di vedersi negare l'accesso ai mercati americani, di gran lunga più appetibili.

The English word *leader* is followed by the word *partner,* which is also used in a number of cases. However, in this case the Italian counterpart *socio/soci* is never used. This could indicate that the English counterpart, in the sector of politics and business, is slowly replacing the Italian word.

e.g. 2 Sì, aveva un piano per «il giorno dopo» e lamenta che i suoi <u>partner</u>, ansiosi di concludere tutto prima delle elezioni americane, non l'abbiano ascoltato.

e.g. 2 Yes, again, he had a plan for the "day after," and he deplores the fact that his *partners*, in their haste to be done with this before the U.S. election, did not heed him more closely.

Another word often used in the articles is the English word *impeachment*, which is also always used in the form of a lexical borrowing, apart from the case where there is a need to explain the meaning of the word *impeachment.* Apart from these frequently used loan words, there is also a number of other loan words that were taken from the English language without changing their form. These words are *remake, playback, show, test, whistle-blower, blacklist, Kleenex, gang, coming out, First Lady, made in* and other. Moreover, the use of English names for organisations, councils and groups varies throughout the articles. On one hand, there are examples of the use of English names such as *the FBI, Grand Old Party, Front National,* while on the other there are a lot of translated names such as *Casa Bianca, curdi, golpisti, partito socialista*.

It is also important to mention that although there is a frequent use of English loan words, they follow the grammar rules of the Italian language when it comes to the plural forms. In other words, according to grammar of the Italian language, loan words do not have the inflection for the plural form as they do in English. That means that the English words *partners* or *leaders* will remain in the singular form (when used as a loan word) with the articles that show plurality in the Italian language (e.g. *i partner, i/le leader*).

Apart from loan words, there is also a frequent use of loan translations, which are less noticeable, because they adapt to the target language by means of spelling and form. The meaning of the word is the same as in the source text; however, it is achieved by literary translating the vocabulary items from one language to the other. The two most noticable examples are the words *install* and *influence* which are translated into Italian as *installare* and

influenza. The Italian counterparts, *effetto/impatto* for *influence*, and *impiantare/mettere/montare* for *install* were not used in the articles. Furthermore, there were several other examples of loan translations, such as *decostituente (decostituent), elezione dell'oppressione (election of oppression), cortina di ferro (iron curtain), borghesia bolivariana (Bolivarian oligarchy), aperture economica (economic opening), nemica radicale (radical enemy).* Due to their adapted spelling and form, loan translations are barely noticeable when found in a sentence, as seen in the examples below.

> e.g. 3 […] dissolving the joint parliamentary commission that continues to operate within the European parliament, *expelling* Turkey from the Council of Europe […]

> e.g. 3 […] sciogliere la commissione parlamentare mista che continua ad esistere nel parlamento di Bruxelles; significa *espellere* la Turchia da un Consiglio dell'Europa […]

> e.g. 4 Hardliners, eager to avoid an *economic opening* that would loosen their hold on much of Iran's wealth […]

> e.g. 4 Il ramo più intransigente del governo invece fa di tutto per evitare *un'apertura economica* che potrebbe allentare la sua presa su gran parte della ricchezza iraniana […]

Apart from loan words and loan translation, it is also necessary to take into consideration hybrid compounds formed of both Italian and English vocabulary items. In the analysis of these 25 articles, there was only one such example. The compound is half loan word and half loan translation. In this case the example is *asset congelati (frozen assets)* which keeps the English word *asset* (instead of the Italian counterparts *beni, proprietà, risorse*) combined with the literal translation of *frozen*. The grammatical rule that dictates the omission of the plural *s* is respected. In some cases, it is highly likely that the reader is not familiar with the English vocabulary item; this kind of compound could then present some difficulties in understanding the meaning of the sentence.

> e.g. 5 It unlocked billions of dollars in long-*frozen assets.*

e.g. 5 Miliardi di dollari, sotto forma di *asset congelati* da diversi anni, erano di nuovo disponibili.

Finally, when it comes to the lexical level, it is important to mention a category that may cause the biggest problems in the overall understanding of certain sentences, the category known as false friends. It is often the case that translators choose vocabulary items that have a similar form as equivalents in the source and the target text; however, their meaning is often quite different. In these articles, it was possible to find different examples of false friends. One of these examples is the English verb *launch* that was translated as *lanciare* in Italian. Although the primary meaning of the Italian verb *lanciare* is *to throw an object*, in this case it was used as a false friend with the figurative meaning *to start a new product, job, project etc.* A more appropriate solution for the verb *to launch* would be using the verbs *fondare, stabilire.* Another example, used in the translated articles but also in everyday life is the adverb *virtually*. This adverb is often translated as *virtualmente*; however, the meaning of the Italian false friend *virtualmente* does not mean *nearly, almost wholly.* Rather, *virtualmente* is used to indicate that something is connected to computers, to virtual reality.

e.g. 6 […] no solidarity towards any cause can authorize, let alone excuse the *virtually* pogromist gesture […]

e.g. 6 […] nessuna solidarietà nei confronti di una qualsiasi causa può, non dico autorizzare, ma scusare il gesto *virtualmente* pogromista […]

4.2. Syntactic level

Moving on to the syntactic level, the number of evidence of linguistic influence is lower. Contrary to the tendencies of the lexis of translated articles, the syntax tends to adhere more to the norms of the target language. However, some evidence of the influence of the syntax of the English language on the syntax of Italian was found in this corpus.

One such example is the increased use of the progressive tenses. The Italian language uses the verb tense called *imperfetto* to indicate that an action is in progress, while the English language uses different types of *continuous* forms. Recently, the Italian language is slowly acquiring a verb form quite similar to the English *continuous*, which is formed using the past form of the verb *stare* and the present participle of the main verb. In these 25 articles, there were four examples of such a use of the verb. Compared to the overall number of sentences these examples are not so numerous; however, they do show the noticeable influence of the structure of the English language in translations.

> e.g. 7 An obscene license to kill issued to the planet's would-be Assads who *have been lying* in ambush while *awaiting* the results of the test: "Now it's our turn," they murmur, "now we can claim the right to murder our own people."

> e.g. 7 Una mostruosa licenza di uccidere rilasciata a tutti gli aspiranti Bashar del pianeta che *stavano* in agguato *aspettando* il risultato del test: tocca a noi, pensano, disporre del diritto di assassinare i nostri popoli.

Here, the use of *imperfetto* would be a much more appropriate verb form. There were three other examples of the use of the progressive form, which are *stavano peggiorando* (*were worsening)* instead of *peggioravano*, *stavano espugnando* (*were conquering*) instead of *espugnavano* and lastly *stava trasformando* (*has been transforming*) instead of *trasformava.*

Although these forms do not present any difficulty for the readers, they do represent the influence of the English language on the syntax of the Italian language.

Another example of linguistic interference on the syntactic level is the increased use of personal pronouns in translations. In the Italian language, verb forms indicate both the gender and the number of the subject, which makes it unnecessary to use pronouns in numerous cases. On the other hand, in the English language it is obligatory to use pronouns to indicate the number and gender, because otherwise it would not be possible to specify the subject. In these translated articles, there were various examples of the use of pronouns in front of verbs to specify the gender and number of the subject, although they were unnecessary. It is clear that this is a direct influence of the source text and source language on the target language, because it clearly reflects the structure and grammatical rule of the source language.

> e.g. 8 And, in the face of this spectacle, we are witnesses who will not even acknowledge that *we are playing* the game of "See No Evil, Hear No Evil."
>
> e.g. 8 […] e davanti a tutto questo *noi non abbiamo trovato* niente da fare, nè da dire, e nemmeno da ridire.
>
> e.g. 9 . *We are* the best, the Kurds say. *We were* flying from one victory to another while the Iraqi regulars were managing to lose again two of the villages they had just taken.
>
> e.g. 9 *Noi siamo* i migliori, dicono i curdi. *Noi passavamo* da una vittoria all'altra, quando l'esercito regolare iracheno perdeva nuovamente due dei villaggi liberati il giorno prima.

There are many other examples of the use of pronouns to specify the subject; however, it is important to mention that the pronoun use does not affect the readability of the article and it is barely noticeable to the reader.

4.3. Translation universals

In order to analyse the discourse level and the effect the source language and text have on the translated articles, translation universals need to be considered. First of all, the translated articles greatly reflect the structure and composition of the source article. Apart from omitting certain paragraphs, the translated articles follow the paragraphs pattern from the source text. Secondly, the translated articles do show various characteristics that are in accord with the translation universals.

4.3.1. Explicitation

The main purpose of this translation universal is to facilitate the reading of the translated text. In other words, translated articles contain a higher number of textual connectors compared to the source text. These connectors also enable the translator to transfer the message more clearly and combine different shorter sentences together. In the chosen articles, the number of sentences where explicitation is used is rather high.

Type of connector	Number of times used
Ovvero	7
Tuttavia	9
Ma	76
Cioè	6
Così	30
Dunque	8
Infatti	7
Perché	51
Mentre	20
Invece	10

Table 2. Types and occurrence of connectors in translated articles.

Of course, not all cases of textual connectors are an example of the explicitation of the source text. Many of these are simply translations of the connectors present already in the source article.

e.g. 10 And the one devised by Russian President Vladimir Putin is probably the most infernal of all.

e.g. 10 *Tuttavia*, nell'inferno delle cattive soluzioni, ce n'è persino una peggiore, forse la peggiore di tutte: è quella di Vladimir Putin.

e.g. 11 […] and who blithely calls blacks "lazy," derides Mexicans as "rapists," and judges Muslims collectively guilty for Islamist terrorism.

e.g. 11 […] le sue uscite contro i Neri (inevitabilmente «pigri»), gli ispanici (generalmente «stupratori») o i musulmani (necessariamente «informati», *dunque* colpevoli, delle stragi di Orlando e di San Bernardino).

Although these connectors do not exist in the source text, they are used in the target text to facilitate reading and create better coherence among sentences. They are a clear trait of translated texts because it is important for translations to be as clear and precise as possible. They are used for clarification, specification, adding necessary items and other.

4.3.2. Simplification and disambiguation

In terms of simplification, the number of examples in these articles are not quite numerous. Simplification is used to avoid repetition of information, to replace confusing sentences or extensively long sentences. In these articles, simplification can be connected to the omission of certain paragraphs. Some of the omitted paragraphs contained repetition of facts already mentioned, which can be seen as a form of simplification, since the translator

chose to disregard certain pieces of information that were already mentioned. However, other cases of simplification were not noticed in the articles. On the contrary, the translated text had more complex and longer sentences compared to the source article rather than having simplified and shorter ones.

Furthermore, under the concept of simplification there is also the disambiguation of certain sentences or facts mentioned. In some cases, the translator needs to interfere with the original sentence in order to make it clearer and transfer the intended meaning properly. This happens when certain ideas or concepts exist in the source language, but do not exist in the target language. In such cases, the translator inserts additional comments or explanations in the sentence, either in brackets or using punctuation. In this corpus, there was only one example of disambiguation where the translator had to add additional information in order to clarify the sentence.

> e.g. 12 […] Onfray is now going after the "synthetic" candidate of "the system," a "*detergent*" who emerged from the "firms" in which the "capital" plans its intrigues.

> e.g. 12 […] adesso se la prende con il candidato del «sistema», del quale «si scoprirà un giorno» non essere altro che una «creatura di sintesi» *(ha detto testualmente un «detersivo»)* uscito dalle stanze oscure dove si ordiscono le trame del «capitale».

4.3.3. Normalisation

Normalisation refers to the tendency of translated texts to follow rules and norms of the target language as closely as possible. Translated texts tend to use conventional grammar, even in cases where the linguistic items are rarely used in everyday life (i.e. personal pronouns *egli, ella* etc.). In the chosen articles, the number of examples of the use of conventional grammar is quite high.

The first of these examples is the extensive use of "outdated" personal pronouns for the third personal (*esso, egli, ella, essi*). These pronouns are not commonly used in everyday life except for literary or religious writing. However, according to conventional grammar, they are the correct versions of personal pronouns; however, the more commonly used ones are *lui, lei, loro*. Once again, these pronouns do not cause readability issues but they do reflect an unusual use of personal pronouns that is not present in everyday life.

e.g. 13 To him, it is nothing more than another theater for his furious narcissism.

e.g. 13 Questo, per lui, altro non è che uno fra i tanti palcoscenici del suo narcisismo esasperato e, in fondo, *egli* resta fedele al suo ruolo.

e.g. 14 […] as the Kremlin's propagandists claim, but to restore political control, at any cost, to the regime that spawned the terrorism in the first place.

e.g. 14 Di qui a concludere che per il Cremlino sarebbe un bersaglio legittimo ogni aereo chiamato a sorvolare un territorio che *esso* considera ormai proprio, non c'è che un passo.

e.g. 15 But *they* have returned—and that is why we are here.

e.g. 15 Ma *essi* sono di ritorno, e perciò siamo qui.

Secondly, there is the use of inversion to accommodate to the Italian word order which is a lot more flexible compared to the English language. In the translated articles, numerous inversions were used to create longer sentences that resemble closely the discourse style of Italian. The use of prepositions and complements to clarify relations and meaning in these sentences is quite often. In addition, it allows for a better distribution of information, stressing the importance of certain parts of the sentence.

e.g. 16 The Nobel committee is unlikely ever to offer Donald Trump anything, and Moon, *despite his protestations that Trump is more deserving*, is an obvious choice for a future prize.

e.g. 16 È improbabile che la commissione svedese voglia offrire il benché minimo riconoscimento a Donald Trump, mentre Moon rappresenta la scelta ovvia per una futura onorificenza — *sebbene il presidente sudcoreano sostenga che Trump ne abbia maggior diritto.*

Moreover, it is important to mention the extensive use of subordination and coordination in translated articles. The English articles tend to have shorter and less complex sentences, which is a common trait of the English language. On the other hand, longer and more complex sentences are a common trait of the Italian language. In order to adhere to the conventional grammar rules of the Italian language (that is the use of coordination and subordination whenever possible) the translated articles in different occasions presented two or more sentences combined together by means of coordination or subordination. This clearly impacted the overall number of sentences in the translated articles. Due to the merging of sentences, the corpus of translated articles had a smaller number of sentences compared to the original articles.

The last important factor that falls under normalisation is the notion of objectivity. In the English articles, writers tend to write using the first person, either singular or plural to bring themselves closer to the audience. However, Italian conventional grammar prefers objectivity rather than subjectivity, which is why writers will rarely introduce themselves into the text. Throughout the articles, on many occasions, the English *we* or *I* were replaced by a less subjective Italian form, in order to distance the writer (or translator) from the written text.

e.g. 17 For now, *we should* suspend our scepticism until we see what sort of a deal they can make.

e.g. 17 *Sarebbe il caso* di mettere da parte lo scetticismo fino a quando non si saprà con esattezza quali saranno i termini dell'accordo.

e.g. 18 *We must* reassemble what is falling apart and drifting away like icebergs. *We must* close the wound from which flows the lifeblood of a fragmented society.

e.g. 18 *Bisogna* risaldare quel che si disfa e si allontana, come gli iceberg di una banchisa che si scioglie...*Bisogna* rimarginare la piaga attraverso cui scorre, come il sangue di un emofiliaco, il corpo sociale disgregato.

However, in some cases the translated articles show the opposite tendency. Translators do not leave the sentence in its objective form, but rather insert pronouns to make the sentence more subjective.

e.g. 19 Erdogan *leaves the West* no choice.

e.g. 19 Erdogan *non ci lascia* più la scelta.

Nevertheless, the overall number of examples indicates the tendency towards objective sentences.

4.3.4. Discourse transfer

Discourse transfer refers to the direct transfer of certain words, phrases, sentences and structure from one language to another. Some of these aspects have already been mentioned earlier. The translated articles have, in fact, transferred various elements from the source text to the target text. These elements are typical of the source language; however, they would not occur in a natural production of the target language. As mentioned previously, the translated articles directly transferred the extensive use of pronouns (to indicate gender and number), the use of the progressive by means of a *continuous* form not used in Italian. Finally, there is also

the direct transfer of lexical items, which results in the previously mentioned loan words or loan translations.

4.3.5. Distinctive distribution of target language items

The last form of translation universal is the distinctive distribution of target language items. According to this universal, the target text contains a specific order of words that is not quite typical of the target language. With this corpus, the most noticeable distribution of items was the use of demonstratives (*questo, questa, quello, quella*) that were positioned at the beginning of the sentence in the majority of cases. They are used in order to stay close to the source sentence; however, in the production of the target language such distribution of items is not quite frequent.

e.g. 20 *That's* why China is the biggest winner of all.

e.g. 20 *Questo* spiega come mai la Cina ne uscirà vincitrice assoluta.

5. Discussion

The prestige of the English language and the increasing need for translations have a great impact on the languages that translate any kind of content from English. This study analysed 25 newspaper articles translated from English into Italian by comparing them to their source text. Contrary to expectations, the number of translated articles in newspapers is quite low. This could indicate that the newspaper editors want to achieve as much as possible by their own work, rather than by translating articles written by other authors and taken from other newspapers. Translating articles also means that other papers will have advantage in the speed of publishing news, which is another reason to avoid translations. This study focused primarily on newspaper articles in the section of politics and business due to the highest number of translations there. Previous studies (Musacchio, 2005; Ondelli and Viale, 2010) showed that most source articles came from world-known newspaper such as *The New York Times* and *The Economist.* However, the sources for the articles in this corpus were less known newspapers; *Hindustantimes, NZ Herald, Kyiv Post* etc., which caused considerable difficulties in finding the source articles.

The analysis of the selected newspaper articles confirmed both hypotheses. First, it was seen that translated articles are influenced by English at different language levels. Second, translated articles indicated the existence of characteristics typical of translated texts (i.e. translation universals). The results obtained by this study indicate that the language level most susceptible to linguistic interference is the lexical level. All the articles in the corpus presented at least one (or more) example of either loan translation or loan word. Furthermore, interference at the lexical level is also the most noticeable form of interference (especially loan words) due to the spelling and form of transferred vocabulary items. However, the

linguistic interference at the syntactic level cannot be disregarded. Since syntactic forms are not so evident as lexical influences, it is much harder to notice such interference, and they lead to changes in the structure of the target language. Such results are quite similar to the results of Musacchio (2005), where the author showed that there was an increased linguistic interference at the lexical level of language; however, the syntactic level was also affected. This indicates that the trend in linguistic interference and linguistic transfer has not overly changed.

The analysed articles also contained characteristics of translation universals. Throughout the articles, it was possible to notice specific traits that would have typically not be present if the articles had been originally written in the target language (especially some traits of normalisation, i.e. the use of personal pronouns *egli, ella, esso*). These traits do not interfere with the meaning of the text; they are mostly present at the textual level, altering the paragraph disposition and sentence length (cf. Musacchio, 2004). Ondell and Viale (2010) also confirmed the existence of these characteristics mutual to all translated texts. The findings showed that some of these characteristics were more numerous in respect to others, and their use was inconsistent.

6. Conclusion

The power and prestige of the English language have spread all around the globe. Due to this power and under its influence, many other world languages have changed in various ways; from the lexical level to the discourse level. In this study, the focus was on the analysis of newspaper articles translated from English into Italian, to see what kind of linguistic interference takes place. Overall, it was found that the lexical and syntactic level were the most influenced by the source language. Furthermore, it was shown that translated articles demonstrated some characteristics related to the translation universals.

Regarding the difficulties encountered during the research, the biggest one was compiling the corpus. Translated articles are less frequent in Italian daily newspapers and their source texts are often unknown and difficult to reach. Given that languages are constantly changing under the influence of other (powerful) languages., further studies on the topic need to be conducted. In order to dwell deeper into the characteristics of translated articles, original Italian texts could be compared to translated texts in order to categorise the differences. Finally, other languages should also be taken into consideration, since articles are not always translated from English.

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