Translation Strategies for Achieving Equivalence in Translating Idioms and Proverbs: a Contrastive Analysis

Zaccai, Deborah

Undergraduate thesis / Završni rad

2021

Degree Grantor / Ustanova koja je dodijelila akademski / stručni stupanj: **University of Rijeka, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences / Sveučilište u Rijeci, Filozofski fakultet**

Permanent link / Trajna poveznica: https://urn.nsk.hr/urn:nbn:hr:186:447530

Rights / Prava: In copyright/Zaštićeno autorskim pravom.

Download date / Datum preuzimanja: **2025-01-02**

UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Deborah Zaccai

Translation strategies for achieving equivalence in translating idioms and proverbs: a contrastive analysis

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the B.A. in English Language and

Literature and Italian Language and Literature at the University of Rijeka

Supervisor:
Doc. dr. sc. Mirjana Borucinsky

Rijeka, July 2021

Contents

1. Introduction

In this thesis, I shall discuss translation strategies used for achieving equivalence in translation. More specifically, I will focus on the strategies used in translating idioms and proverbs. The analysis will be based on 75 idioms extracted from four different dictionaries in three languages (English, Croatian and Italian). After setting the theoretical background, I will try to explain which strategy is the most useful one for translating idioms and proverbs. I will explain what translation equivalence is, how it is used and what the common problems that translators face when using equivalence as a translating strategy are. I will base my findings on three main approaches to translation equivalence: 1. Linguistic approach (advocated by Vinay, Darbelnet, Catford), 2. Semiotic approach (advocated by Jakobson) and 3. Middle ground (advocated by Nida, Baker, Ivir, House). Excluding the introduction, this thesis is composed of four chapters: Translation strategies, Translation equivalence as a key issue in translation studies, Translation of idioms and proverbs, which is divided into three paragraphs, Methodology, Examples of idioms and proverbs with translation and Comments and suggestions and finally the Conclusion. I will show how equivalence is best used when translating idioms and proverbs. After further explaining what idioms and proverbs are, using examples from the table I will explain how some proverbs and idioms differ from each other; how they are classified and why; what the equivalent translation in Croatian and Italian language is and whether there is a possibility of a better translation.

2.Translation strategies

To better understand translation strategies, let us first answer the following question: "What is translation?". The Oxford English Dictionary provides two definitions, a) the act or an instance of translating and b) a written or spoken expression of the meaning of a word, speech, book, etc. in another language. The first of these two senses relate to translation as an act and a process, and the second one refers to translation as a product. The first sense focuses on the role of the translator (TRL) in taking the original (i.e., source text (ST)) and transforming it into a text in another language (i.e., the target text (TT)). The second sense centres on the concrete translation product produced by the TRL (Hatim and Munday, pp.3,2004.). Another similar definition is offered by Ivir (1978.), who defines translation as one of the forms of human activity. The very act of translation consists of converting the messages (thoughts, feelings, wishes, orders, etc.) previously expressed in one language into just as valuable a message expressed in some other language (pp.9). While Hatim and Munday focus more on the linguistic aspect of translation as an act, Ivir offers a simpler and more natural definition of translation. Based on the findings above, three conclusions can be drawn: 1) what is being translated is the message, 2) in order for a message to be translated, it must first be expressed in one language and then in some other language and 3) in both linguistic expressions the message must remain the same, which means that the recipients of the translated message must receive the same content as the recipients of the original message (Ivir, pp.9). House (1977) however does not necessarily agree with this and proposes a categorization of overt and covert translation. The overt translation method entails that signs are simply substituted for other signs and that quite a portion of the cultural content is left for the target reader to sort out. On the other hand, covert translation is chosen when the ST does not depend for its relevance so much on the SL and culture; i.e., when translators produce a TT that is as immediately relevant for the target reader as the ST has been for the SL reader (Munday, Hatim, pp.290-291). After having briefly discussed how translation can be defined, I shall focus now on translation techniques or translation strategies. According to Vinay and Darbelnet (2000.), TRL can choose between two methods, literal and oblique translation. Literal translation can be divided into three procedures: borrowing, calque and literal translation, whereas oblique translation can be divided into four procedures: transposition, modulation, equivalence and adaptation (pp.85). These shall be briefly discussed in the following sections, while the focus of the paper will be on equivalence. Borrowing is the simplest of all translation strategies. It is used when a target language (TL) has

no equivalent translation for a source language (SL). Some borrowings are so widely used that they have become a part of the TL lexicon. For example, in the English language, words such as *tortilla, party, menu, chic, déjà vu, rendez-vous* etc. are no longer considered borrowings (Vinay, Darbelnet, pp.85, 2000.).

A calque is a special kind of borrowing whereby a language borrows an expression form from another, but then translates literally each of its elements. As a result, there are two types of calques: 1) a lexical calque which respects the syntactic structure of the TL, whilst introducing a new mode of expression (e.g.: *Compliments de la saison* acc. to *Compliments of the Season*) and 2) a structural calque which introduces a new structure into the language (e.g., *science-fiction*). Many fixed calques become an integral part of language after a period of time (Vinay and Darbelnet, pp.85, 2000.). For instance, the Croatian word *kolodvor* is a calque of the German word *Bahnhof* and the Italian word *aria condizionata* is a calque for the English *air conditioned.* Literal translation or word-for-word translation is the direct transfer of SL message into a grammatically and idiomatically appropriate TL message. According to Vinay and Darbelnet, a literal translation can only be applied to languages which are close, i.e., which share the same typological features and as such belong to the same language family. It is acceptable only if the translated text retains the same syntax, the same meaning and the same style as the original text (pp.86-87), as can be seen in (1).

(1) *Che ore sono? = What hour is it?* (Italian as the SL and English as the TL)

It is important to note that translators turn to oblique translation after they have exhausted the three procedures of literal translation. Only after the three procedures of literal translation result in an unacceptable[1] translation, the TRLs shall turn to the oblique translation, i.e., transposition, modulation, equivalence and adaptation.

Transposition involves replacing one word class with another without changing the meaning of the message.

(2) (Vinay and Darbelnet, pp.88) a) *After he comes back…- Dopo che lui ritorna…*

(Vinay and Darbelnet, pp.88) b) *As soon as he gets up…- Appena lui si alza…*

(pp.88, 2000.).

---

[1] An unacceptable translation is a translation which yields another meaning, has no meaning, is structurally impossible, does not have a corresponding expression with the metalinguistic experience of the TL, has a corresponding expression but not within the same register (add page number).

Transposition can be used in the same language as well, i.e., in intralingual translation (Jakosbon, 1959.).

> (3) a) Reconstruction of the crime scene is very important.
>
> b) Reconstructing the crime scene is very important.
>
> c) To reconstruct the crime scene is very important.

Transposition can be free or optional, depending on context and the desired effect in the TL, as in (4), and fixed as it introduces obligatory changes in the grammatical structure, as in (5).

> (4) *He made a nice speech- Održao je lijep govor- Ha fatto un bel discorso*
>
> (5) *An assessment was made of the situation - Procijenili su situaciju -Hanno valutato la situazione*

Modulation is about changing the form of the message by introducing a semantic change or perspective. There are two types of modulation, free or optional and fixed or obligatory. Modulation should be avoided unless it is very necessary for the naturalness of the translation. (6) *It is not difficult to show…- È facile da dimostrare…* (Vinay andDarbelnet, pp.89, 2000.).

Adaptation is a translation strategy used for culture-specific content because it replaces the original text with one that is better suited to the culture of the target language. In this case, TRLs need to create a new word that can be considered equivalent depending on the situation (Vinay, Darbelnet, pp.90-91). An example would be rendering a joke which in English make fun of the Irish but would not be funny to the Croatians when translated into Croatian.

The last translation technique proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet is equivalence. This is the technique I consider most appropriate for translating idioms and proverbs and hence the subsequent sections of my thesis will focus on equivalence as a TR strategy but also on equivalence as a core issue in translation studies. I will show that there is no single approach to translation equivalence, and that it is changeable due to the fluid nature of the language and specific features of idioms and proverbs.

Vinay and Darbelnet state that equivalence is a procedure to describe the same situation by using completely different stylistic or structural methods for producing equivalent texts. In other words, the procedure of equivalence can be used to translate fixed expressions in SL such as idioms, clichés, proverbs, nominal or adjectival phrases, animal onomatopoeia, etc. into the equal different form in TL (pp.90). To make it simpler, translation equivalence is a procedure which replicates

the same situation as in the original, whilst using completely different wording. Proverbs are in general good examples of when equivalence as a strategy should be used.

(7) *One swallow makes no summer = Jedna lasta ne čini proljeće = Una rondine non fa la primavera.*

Another case of equivalence can be found in onomatopoeic sounds, such as: *meow=mijau=miao; woof=vau=bau bau; oink=rok=oink oink; chirp=živ-živ=cip cip*, etc

3. Translation equivalence as a key issue in translation studies

There are three main approaches to translation equivalence; 1. Linguistic approach (Vinay, Darbelnet, Catford), 2. Semiotic approach (Jakobson) and 3. Middle ground (Nida, Baker, Ivir, House). The linguistic approach to translation focuses on the key issues of meaning, equivalence and shift. This procedure can maintain the stylistic impact of the SL text in the TL text. (Hatim, Munday, 2004.) In the semiotic approach, the TLR decodes the ST message first and then has to transmit it into an equivalent message for the TC. This means that from a grammatical point of view languages may differ from one another to a greater or lesser degree, but this does not mean that a translation cannot be possible; in other words, the TLR may face the problem of not finding a translation equivalent (Jakobson,1959). The middle ground, as the name suggests, stands in the middle. These scholars believe that the focus should be on the message itself, in both form and content (Nida, pp.129). According to Jakobson's theory, 'translation involves two equivalent messages in two different codes' (pp.233, 1959.).

Jakobson goes on to say that from a grammatical point of view languages may differ from one another to a greater or lesser degree. That doesn't mean that a translation cannot be possible, it means that the TRL may face the problem of not finding a translation equivalent (pp.234, 1959.)

I can conclude that Vinay and Darbelnet as well as Jakobson look at translation as something which can always be achieved from one language to another, regardless of the cultural or grammatical differences between ST and TT.

Nida argued that there are two different types of equivalence, *formal equivalence* or *formal correspondence* and *dynamic equivalence.* Formal correspondence "focuses attention on the message itself, in both form and content", unlike dynamic equivalence which is based upon "the principle of equivalent effect" (pp.135-136). Formal correspondence consists of a TL item which represents the closest equivalent of a SL word or phrase, but there are not always formal equivalents between language pairs while dynamic equivalence is defined as a translation principle according to which a TRL seeks to translate the meaning of the original in a way that the TL wording will have the same impact on the TC audience as the original wording (Nida, Taber, pp.200). I can conclude that Nida is much more interested in the message of the text than the language, so he strives to make sure that the message remains clear in the target text. According to Bassnett's linguistic point of view, there are four types of translation equivalence. The first one is linguistic equivalence, where there is homogeneity on the linguistic level of both

SL and TL texts, or to simplify word-for-word translation. Paradigmatic equivalence is the second one, where there is equivalence of "the elements of a paradigmatic expressive axis", i.e., elements of grammar, which can be seen as being a higher category than lexical equivalence. The third one is called stylistic (translational) equivalence, where there is "functional equivalence of elements in both original and translation aiming at an expressive identity with an invariant of identical meaning". Ending with the fourth one called textual (syntagmatic) equivalence, where there is equivalence of the syntagmatic structuring of a text, that is equivalence of form and shape (Bassnett, pp.33).

When using equivalence, TRLs use different expressions to transmit the same reality, which can sometimes lead to mistranslations. "To this should be added the Italian proverb of the TRL as a traitor (Traduttore, traditore), which is sometimes used as a criticism of a particular TRL or a particular translation, and sometimes as a curse on the entire translation profession" (Ivir, pp.47) Right at the start, I can understand that TRLs have a difficult job. Any translation will always be judged by someone. When using equivalence as a TR procedure, the translator can come across multiple problems. Firstly, the language itself is fluid by nature making it difficult to translate. It is impossible to offer absolute guidelines when dealing with this problem (Baker, pp.17-18). Unfortunately, there is not a single approach to cover translation equivalence. Jakobson says that translation equivalence is the cardinal problem of language and the crucial concern of linguistics (pp.233).

''The difficulty in defining equivalence seems to result in the impossibility of having a universal approach to this notion''. As Leonardi perfectly explained, the term ''translation equivalence'' has been analysed, evaluated and extensively discussed from different points of view and has been approached from many different perspectives and yet, it still remains as one of most problematic and controversial areas in the field of translation theory (Leonardi,1.7).

Achieving equivalence in translation can be difficult and the biggest pitfall of every TRL are "false friends". False friends tend to occur in related languages or in languages which have been in close contact with each other. There are lexical and grammatical false friends (Munday, pp.188). False friends are words in two various languages that have something in common, but they are not at all equal. However, on the basis of what they have in common TRL can consider them as completely interchangeable pairs (Ivir, pp.112). These words, which may sound, look, and be spelled similar, have semantic fields that either don't completely or don't coincide at all. To

continue in Ivir's words more formally, ''We speak of a false pair each time that an L2 item corresponds to an L1 item in its formal shape, in the linguistic label which covers it, in some aspects of its meaning or use, or in a combination of two of these three things but not in all of them. When the learner misuses the lexical item eventually, the error is caused by the identity of form which is not accompanied by the identity of semantic content'' (Ivir, pp.117). Ivir distinguishes three types of false friends.

1. L1=L2: pairs of words that have the same meaning in both languages (E.g.: molecule - molekula, theory - teorija etc.)

2. L1≠L2: pairs of words that are similar in form and completely different in meaning (ambulance - ambulanta, honorary - honorarni etc.)

3. L1≥L2: words with partial overlapping meanings are potentially far more dangerous as a source of translation errors rather than real fake pairs; similar form and a common part of meaning (administration - administracija, act - akt etc.) (Ivir, pp.114-120)

Examples of false friends in translation equivalence:

English-Italian: *camera* (a device with which you take photos) - *camera* (a place where you sleep in, a bedroom); *piano* (an instrument) - *piano* (going slowly)

English-Croatian: *actual* (real) - *aktualan* (current, present); *brat* (a child, typically one that is badly behaved) - *brat* (brother)

.

4.Translation of idioms and proverbs

Idioms are linguistic expressions or lexical items representing objects, concepts or phenomena of material life particular to a given culture. They are necessary to any language in order to keep the local and cultural colour of that language (Adelnia, Dastjerdi, pp.879). In a definition given by Larson, an idiom is "a string of words whose meaning is different from the meaning conveyed by the individual words" (Larson, pp.20). Idioms are used in everyday life. Native speakers of a language use them fluently and subconsciously; they come absolutely naturally.

The meaning of idioms cannot be understood from the core meanings of the single words constituting them, so TRLs have problems in both understanding and translating them. Translating idioms obliges the TRL to have a good knowledge of both languages (ST and TT) and their cultures. Idioms are sometimes referred to as fixed expressions which is why they should not be broken up into their elements and hence cannot be translated word for word but as a whole unit. To understand idioms better, I will classify them as proposed by Adelnia and Dastjerdi. Idioms can be grouped into five categories: colloquialisms (e.g., *he died of laughter*=he laughed a lot), proverbs (e.g., *no pain, no gain*=situation of suffering in order to achieve something you want), slang (e.g., *break a leg*=good luck), allusions (e.g., *Chocolate is his Kryptonite*=pointing at the classic superhero comic book and movie Superman where Kryptonite is his weakness) and phrasal verbs (e.g., *to get over*=to recover from something) (Adelnia and Dastjerdi, pp.880).

In this thesis, I will be focusing on idioms as colloquialisms and proverbs. Proverbs are simple ways of speaking. A proverb is a short, generally known sentence of the folk which contains wisdom, truth, morals, and traditional views in a metaphorical, fixed, and memorable form and which is handed down from generation to generation (Adelnia and Dastjerdi, pp.880). Mona Baker mentions that: ''…words rarely occur on their own; they almost always occur in the company of other words. But words are not strung together at random in any language; there are always restrictions (difficulties) on the way they can be combined to convey meaning…''(pp.46). The first job that the TRL has is to recognize that he/she is dealing with idioms. An idiom or a proverb sometimes might not have their equivalent in the target language, that is when the TRL needs to know a lot about the language and culture there are translating so that they can find a suitable expression.

Baker states that a speaker or a writer (TRL of any kind) cannot normally do any of the following with an idiom:

> **1.** change the order of the words in it (e.g., "go to rack and ruin" not "go to ruin and rack")
>
> **2.** delete a word from it (e.g., "shed crocodile tears" not "shed tears".)
>
> **3.** add a word to it (e.g., "have a narrow escape" not "have a narrow quick escape".)
>
> **4.** replace a word with another (e.g., "out of sight, out of mind" not "out of sight, out of heart".)
>
> **5.** change its grammatical structure (e.g., "ring the bell" but not "*the bell was ringed".) (pp.63-65)

The four main difficulties found in translating idioms can be explained as follows:

> **1.** An idiom or fixed expression may have no equivalent in the target language.
>
> **2.** An idiom or fixed expression may have a similar counterpart in the target language, but its context of use may be different.
>
> **3.** An idiom may be used in the source text in both its literal and idiomatic senses at the same time.
>
> **4.** The very convention of using idioms in written discourse, the contexts in which they can be used, and their frequency of use may be different in the source and target languages (Baker, pp.68-70)

When translating idioms using equivalence as a TR procedure, Baker suggests using a) an idiom of similar meaning and form, b) an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, c) paraphrase and d) omission (pp.72-78). Omitting a word from an idiom in a text is not a wise action to take and therefore it should be the last option for a TRL.

Translating idioms is probably one of the most complex and problematic tasks for TRLs. The TRL should choose a proper strategy according to the purpose of the translation but at the same time bear in mind that nothing should be eliminated. Every concept in a particular language has its own correspondent in another language so that means that a TRL needs to find the best equivalents to

transfer both the form and the meaning and not eliminate any part of the idiom (Adelnia and Dastjerdi, pp.882).

Larson (1984.) says that the TRL needs to develop sensitivity to the use of idioms in the target language and use them naturally to make the translation lively and keep the style of the source language. There will often be words in the source language which are not idioms but are best translated as idioms in the TL (pp.116).

4.1. Methodology

For the purposes of this thesis, 75 idioms and proverbs were analysed. The idioms and proverbs were taken out of 4 different phraseology dictionaries; Ivana Bendow's Englesko-hrvatski frazeološki rječnik, Vrgoč and Arosvski's Croatian-English dictionary of idioms, Quartu's Dizionario dei modi di dire and Menac and Vučetić's Hrvatsko-talijanski frazeološki rječnik. I will analyse the idioms and proverbs in three languages, English, Croatian and Italian. The starting language (even though not necessarily the source language) is English. I have selected the idioms and proverbs by how frequently I heard them being used in a language. I have categorized the idioms and proverbs following Baker's modified model. Out of each category, I have chosen examples that are going to be used as the representatives of their group. I will comment each and every example, giving my personal opinion, some origin history and a possible suggestion of another translation. Not every example will need a different translation, especially the word for word equivalents. Some examples cannot be translated any other way because it sounds strange in the TL. SL and TL almost always have their matching equivalent and share the same meaning even if the words are different. In rare cases, there are translations that share similar meaning because nothing better comes close in the TL. The purpose of this analysis is to show the equivalence of translated idioms and proverbs in the target language; how have the target languages adapted and changed the idioms and proverbs to match their culture, keeping in mind that the translation doesn't have to be literal but similar or very closely related.

4.2. Examples of idioms and proverbs with translations

CATEGORY 1: Using an idiom or proverb with the same meaning and form

	ENGLISH	CROATIAN	ITALIAN
I*	Sell smoke and mirrors	Prodavati maglu/dim	Vendere fumo
I*	Face to face	Licem u lice Oči u oči	A faccia a faccia In faccia a qcn.
I	Hungry as a (the) wolf	Biti gladan kao vuk/pas	Avere una fame da lupi
I	Have lucky hand	Biti sretne ruke	Aver buona mano Essere fortunato
I*	Not to stir/lift/raise a finger	Ne maknuti prstom	Non muovere un dito
I	To have the last word	Imati posljednju (zadnju) riječ	Avere l'ultima parola
I	To the last breath	Do posljednjeg daha	Fino all'ultimo respiro
I	Ups and downs	Usponi i padovi	Alti e bassi
I	My blood ran cold It made my blood creep	Krv mi se ledi u žilama	Mi fa gelare il sangue (le vene)
I	To have no (not the slightest) idea	Nemati pojma (o pojmu) Nemati (blage) veze	Non avere (la minima) idea
I	A man of action	Čovjek od djela čovjek od akcije	Un uomo d'azione

I	More dead than alive	Više mrtav nego živ	Piu' morto che vivo
I	Crocodile tears	Krokodilske suze	Lacrime di cocodrillo
I	i should not like to be in his skin (shoes)	Ne bih htio biti u njegovoj koži	Non vorrei essere nella sua pelle
I	The dice is cast	Kocka je pala	Il dado e' tratto
I*	Tooth for tooth, eye for eye	Oko za oko, zub za zub	Occhio per occhio, dente per dente
I	One's place in the sun	Mjesto pod suncem	Posto al sole
I	The beginning of the end	Početak kraja	Il principio della fine
I*	To be or no to be	Biti ili ne biti	Essere o non essere
I	Cards on the table!	Karte na stol!	Carte in tavola!
P	Like father like son	Kakav otac, takav sin	Quale padre, tale figlio
P	Today me, tomorrow thee	Danas meni, sutra tebi	Oggi a me, domani a te
P*	The exception proves the rule	Iznimka potvrđuje pravilo	L'eccezione conferma la regola
P	Strike while the iron is hot	Gvožđe se kuje dok je vruće	Batti il ferro finche' e' caldo
P*	Something is rotten in the state of Denmark	Nešto je trulo u državi Danskoj	C'e' del marcio in terra danese
P	He laughs best who laughs last	Najbolje (najslađe) se smije tko se zadnji (posljednji smije)	Ride bence chi ridde ultimo

CATEGORY 2: Using an idiom or proverb with the same meaning and similar form

	ENGLISH	CROATIAN	ITALIAN
I	Promise the Earth (Moon)	Obećavati brda i doline	Promettere mari e monti a qcn
I	Bang one's head against a brick wall	Ići glavom kroza zid	Mettere i piedi al muro
I	Are you out of your mind?	Jesi li se ludih gljiva najeo?	Sei impazzito?
I*	Like (two) peas in a pod	Kao jaje jajetu	Somigliarsi come due gocce d'acqua
I	By the skin of one's teeth With great difficulty	Jedva jedvice	A mala pena Con gran fatica
I*	Raining cats and dogs	Lije kao iz kabla	L'acqua viene giu' a orci Piove a catinelle
I	Go like a knife through butter smooth sailing	Ide kao po loju	Va liscio come l'olio
I	Stick one's nose into everything	Biti svakom loncu poklopac	Mettere il naso dappertutto
I	Soaked to the skin soaking wet	Mokar kao miš	Bagnato fino alla camicia Bagnato come un cencio

I*	Bookworm	Knjiški moljac	Il topo di biblioteca
I	Wouldn't hurt a fly	Ne bi ni mrava zgazio	Non farebbe mal ad un mosca
I	A tough (hard) nut (to crack)	Tvrd orah	È un osso duro
I	Turn a blind eye	Gledati kroz prste	Chiudere un occhio
I	Eat like a bird	Jesti kao ptica	Mangiare quanto una formica
I	A stow-away	Slijepi putnik	Passenggero clandestino
I	Hear-say	Rekla kazala	Pettegolezzi
I	It's not all sunshine and roses	Ne cvjetaju ruže	La fortuna non è favorevole
I	Full blast All guns blazing	Sve u šesnaest	A tutto gas A tutta forza
I*	Open secret	Javna tajna	Segreto di Pulcinella
I	Stare like a cow at a new gate	Gledati kao tele u šarena vrata	Rimanere confuso e interdetto
I	Look for a better living	Ići trbuhom za kruhom	Andare in cerca di lavoro
I	Kill two birds with one stone	Ubiti dvije muhe jednim udarcem	Prendere due piccioni con una fava
I	Add fuel to the fire	Doliti ulje na vatru	Mettere legna al fuoco
I	Praise to the sky	Hvaliti na sva usta	Alzare alle stelle

I*	Beat the hell out of smbdy. Beat the living daylight out of smbdy.	Istući kao vola u kupusu	Dare delle buone legnate Dare un fracco di bastonate
I	Who (in) the hell knows	Vrag bi ga znao	Indovinalla grillo! chi lo sa!
I	Give him an inch and he'll take an ell	Pružiš mu prst, on uzme cijelu ruku	Se gli dai un dito, ti prende anche il braccio
P	One hand will wash the other	Ruka ruku mije (obraz obadvije)	Una mano lava l'altra
P	One nail drives out another	Klin se klinom izbija	Chiodo caccia chiodo
P*	One swallow makes no summer	Jedna lasta ne čini proljeće	Una rondine non fa la primavera

CATEGORY 3: Using an idiom or proverb with the same or similar meaning but different form

	ENGLISH	CROATIAN	ITALIAN
I	And that's that And no more worry	I mirna Bosna	E non se ne parli piu E cosi va bene
I*	Child's play A piece of cake	Dječja igra mačji kašalj	Cosa da nulla
I	Have a screw lose Be missing a few marbles	Nedostaje ti daska u glavi	Gli manca un giovedi
I	Fit as a fiddle Healthy as a horse	Zdrav kao dren	Sano come un pesce
I	Put the world right Rectify all wrongs	Ispravljati krivu Drinu	Voler radrizzare le gambe ai cani Voler la luna
I	That's the catch	U tom grmu leži zec	Qui casca l'asino
I*	Get under someone's skin Get in someone's hair	Ići nekome na jetra	Dare ai nervi a qcn.
I	(as) Innocent as a lamb caught in the middle	Ni kriv ni dužan	Senza la minima colpa Affatto innocente
I	Jump the gun Go of the rock	Trčati pred rudo	Agire in fretta e furia
I*	Hit the jackpot Hit a home run	Pala je sjekira u med	È piovuto il cacio sui maccheroni

I*	Deaf as a doorknob	Gluh kao top	Sordo come una campana
I*	Fall head over heel (in love)	Zaljubiti se preko ušiju	Innamorarsi fin sopra i capelli
I*	Give a poisoned chalice	Medvjeđa usluga	Un favore da cani
I	Cheerish (protect) like the apple of one's eye	Držati kao kap vode na dlanu	Conservare con cura affettuosa
I	Every schoolboy knows that	To već i vrapci na krovovima znaju	È scritto su tutti i muri
I	Keep under one's hat	Kriti kao zmija noge	Sottrarre alla vista
I	With might and main With all one's might	Iz petnih žila	A piu' non posso
P*	As the worker so his work	Po radu se majstor poznaje	Il lavoro nobilita l'uomo Lavoratore buono, d'un podere ne fa due
P*	Many men, many minds	Koliko ljudi toliko ćudi	Quante teste, tanti modi di pensare

4.3. Comments and suggestions

CATEGORY 1: Using an idiom or proverb with the same meaning and form

1. Sell smoke and mirrors - Prodavati maglu/dim - Vendere fumo

This idiom, even if not entirely word for word can be placed under such category because the translations are each other's closest equivalents. The Croatian and Italian translation are missing an equivalent for 'mirrors' but Prodavati maglu/dim i zrcala or Vendere fumo e specchi has no sense in the given languages.

2. Face to face - Licem u lice; Oči u oči - A faccia a faccia; in faccia a qcn.

This idiom is a word for word translation. Even if Croatian and Italian language offer another possibility of translation, the equivalents for the English language are the ones frequently used.

3. Not to stir/lift/raise a finger - Ne maknuti/mrdnuti prstom - Non muovere un dito

This idiom offers a couple of verbs to choose from when translating. Croatian verb maknuti is the equivalent of English verb to move and Italian verb muovere, but ultimately, they are all synonyms and thus can this be an example of a word for word idiom.

4. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth - Oko za oko, zub za zub - Occhio per occhio, dente per dente

This is a perfect example of a word-by-word translation and its origin can be ascribed to Biblical references. Sometimes, an Italian native speaker will shorten this idiom and just say Occhio per occhio, using only the first half of the idiom.

5. To be or not to be - Biti ili ne biti - Essere o non essere

This famous idiom, found in Shakespeare's Hamlet has its perfect equivalent in other languages.

6. The exception proves the rule - Iznimka potvrđuje pravilo - L'eccezione conferma la regola

This proverb is a perfect example of formal correspondence, i.e., complete translation equivalents in the other two languages.

7. Something is rotten in the state of Denmark - Nešto je trulo u državi Danskoj - C'e' del marcio in terra danese

This proverb can be found in Shakespeare's Hamlet. I consider it to be a word for word example, even though the Italian translation has terra instead of stato, which would be the perfect equivalent. Italian language does use the word terra referring to the state of a country so it can be considered a synonym.

CATEGORY 2: Using an idiom or proverb with the same meaning and similar form

1. Like (two) peas in a pod - Kao jaje jajetu - Somigliarsi come due gocce d'acqua

This idiom shares its meaning perfectly but the words used are entirely different. In Croatian the word 'jaje' or 'egg' is used while in Italian the words 'gocce d'acqua' or 'raindrops or drops of water'. I could offer the word for word translation in both languages, Croatian equivalent would be 'Kao grašak grašku' and Italian equivalent would be 'Somigliarsi come due piselli' but word for word translation really sounds strange in this example and I don't think anybody would use it.

2. Raining cats and dogs - Lije kao iz kabla - L'acqua viene giu' a orci; piove a catinelle

This idiom found its equivalents in different wording. Trying to translate the English idiom in Croatian and Italian language word by word would sound very confusing.

3. Bookworm - Knjiški moljac - Il topo di biblioteca

This very frequently used idiom includes an animal metaphor to refer to someone who enjoys reading a lot. In Croatian the word 'moth' is used while the Italian language uses the word 'mouse'. I believe that when thinking about a stereotypical library, an old, musky room filled with thousands of books pops to mind. With that picture, I can envision worms, mice and moths living there so I believe it is a very good equivalent. I could offer a word-by-word translation, Croatian 'knjiški crv' and Italian 'il verme di biblioteca' but in these languages the idiom becomes something degrading.

4. Open secret - Javna tajna - Segreto di Pulcinella

I personally like how in this idiom the equivalent in Italian sounds like something completely different than the English and Croatian language. Even though it means completely the same, the

name Pulcinella comes from Italian comedy theatre. The character of Pulcinella is the one that usually knows everything about everyone and makes fun of other characters. I think it offers a very nice explanation, especially nowadays when we have the Internet. Every personal information online becomes a public information, people just pretend that their information is something secretive.

5. Beat the hell out of smbdy.; beat the living daylight out of smbdy. - Istući kao vola u kupusu - Dare delle buone legnate; dare un fracco di bastonate

I think that Croatian language has the funniest translation when it comes to this idiom. Even though a more similar expression is used frequently ' Prebiti i boga i vraga u nekome' which is a much closer translation to the English one, Croatian language uses ' beat somebody up like an ox in cabbage' which makes no sense to me personally. Italian language offers a more picturesque translation meaning ' to beat somebody up with a piece of a wooden stick'. A similar saying can be found in Italian's card game Briscola, dating back to 1828., where every Ace card has its own saying. The Ace card representing wooden sticks or 'bastoni' says: 'Molte volte le giuocate van finire a bastonate'. This might be the ethimology of the Italian idiom.

6. One swallow makes no summer - Jedna lasta ne čini proljeće - Una rondine non fa la primavera

This proverb carries a difference in the last word. In Croatian and Italian, the word 'spring' replaces the 'summer' in English idiom. Even though the translation could be word for word in Croatian and Italian language, or the word 'summer' in English could be easily replaced by 'spring', I think this proverb came to life when people started noticing swallows first appearances. For the English native speakers this could've been summer but for the Croatian and Italian speakers could've been the spring. The swallow is a symbol of nice and warm weather which usually in the last 5 years is summer, because springs are still very cold. This proverb could be changed, in Croatian ' Jedna lasta ne čini ljeto' and Italian 'Una rondine non fa l'estate' and it wouldn't change its meaning or structure.

CATEGORY 3: Using an idiom or proverb with the same or similar meaning but different form

1. Child's play; a piece of cake - Dječja igra; mačji kašalj - Cosa da nulla

This idiom finds its word-by-word translation in the Croatian language, but not in the Italian language. The other variant 'a piece of cake' has no connection to the Croatians 'mačji kašalj' but share the same meaning. I don't know the origin of 'mačji kašalj' or in English 'cats cough' but I wouldn't consider it as an example of an easy task, maybe as a sarcasm. I would offer a translation in Italian language 'Gioco da ragazzi' that could be used as an equivalent of Child's play because I feel like it is easy to use and a true saying.

2. Get under someone's skin; get in someone's hair - Ići nekome na jetra - Dare ai nervi a qcn.
This idiom has different wording in these three languages. 'Get under someone's skin' when translating in other two languages have a negative connotation but it can have a positive one. When you start liking somebody, that person can get under your skin in a good way. The translation for Croatian would then be 'Uvući se nekome pod kožu' and in Italian ' mi sei entrato sotto la pelle'. However, for the idiom that I have chosen, the more suitable translation could be following the Italian translation: Dare ai nervi a qcn. =Ići/Dizati nekome (na) živce=To get on someone's nerves. The changes in Croatian and English language are then needed but it is something frequently used and it wouldn't sound strange.

3. Hit the jackpot; hit a home run - Pala je sjekira u med - È piovuto il cacio sui maccheroni
The Croatian translation could be more similar to the English one. If I were the suggest 'Dobiti na lotu' it would mean the same and the wording would be much closer to the English one. For the Italian language it is an entirely different concept, meaning that 'the cheeses have fallen to maccheroni' roughly saying 'mac and cheese'

4. Deaf as a doorknob - Gluh kao top - Sordo come una campana
This idiom is very particular in my opinion. 'A doorknob' an inanimate object was chosen to represent a 'deaf' person. Interestingly, Croatian offers the word 'cannon' and Italian the word 'bell', also inanimate objects that actually produce a sound. This sound is usually very loud and it could make you go deaf. I wouldn't give another option because I think this equivalent was nicely chosen.

5. Fall head over heel (in love) - Zaljubiti se preko ušiju -Innamorarsi fin sopra i capelli

The Croatian translation was always a little 'rusty', I would offer the translation: 'Zaljubiti se preko glave' which uses the word 'head' instead of 'ears' which would be a more appropriate equivalent in my opinion. The Italian translation involves the word 'hair' that indicates the head, and when falling in love people tend to lose their mind/head, so I would leave the Italian version as it is.

6.Give a poisoned chalice - Medvjeđa usluga - Un favore da cani

'A bears favour' as the Croatian translation says, dates back to a Russian fable in 1808. where a bear, trying to be helpful accidentally kills his friend. The symbol used is a bear because he is seen as a clumsy and sluggish animal. Even if trying to do good, you do someone a disservice. I think that this Croatian equivalent is more appropriate for the idiom: 'to do someone a great disservice/ill' but for the lack of a better equivalent in Croatian 'Medvjeđa usluga' is used when referring to this type of situation. The Italian translation, even if using the symbol of an animal i.e., 'dog' comes much closer as an equivalent because of its meaning. Usually when someone offers a chalice, it represents loyalty and trust and dogs being loyal and trusting never suspect something bad.

7. As worker so his work - Po radu se majstor poznaje - Il lavoro nobilita l'uomo; Lavoratore buono, d'un podere ne fa due

This proverb was hard to find in Italian because it doesn't really have an equivalent. The closest proverbs that I've found are 'Il lavoro nobilita l'uomo' and 'Lavoratore buono, d'un podere ne fa due' which both associate their meaning to a hard worker.

8. Many men, many minds - Koliko ljudi toliko ćudi - Quante teste, tanti modi di pensare

With this proverb I had difficulty finding its equivalent in the English language. Even though I used English as my SL, I found this proverb in Croatian language and decided to use it anyway, thinking I will just find the English equivalent. It was much harder than I initially thought. After some online research and classic book research, I found the best one. I decided to leave this proverb under category 3 because of the hard find and because at the end it fit perfectly in all of three languages.

5. Conclusion

This thesis deals with the analysis of proverbs and idioms and their translation into the Croatian and Italian language. I would say that this paper is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the theory of translation and translation strategies and the other deals with methodology and analysis. Idioms and proverbs are further analysed in a separate chapter, alongside my own comments and suggestions. The aim of this thesis was to show which translation strategy is the best one to use when translating idioms and proverbs and show which language shares the most similar meaning and form. In this paper, I have analysed 75 idioms and proverbs and concluded that the English, Croatian and Italian language share the same or similar ideas. Lastly, idioms and proverbs have been used from the beginning of any written and spoken language. They are used when expressing thoughts, cultural beliefs, experiences and some common ideas about people and the world in general. They can be used in sentences or alone and are usually short and have figurative meaning. Idioms and proverbs are not easy to translate, and a bad translation can result in a wrong message, that is why using equivalence as a translation strategy is the best option when translating idioms and proverbs.

List of abbreviations

SL-source language

ST-source text

TL-target language

TT-target text

TC-target culture

TRL-translator

References

1. Menac, Antica, and Zorica Vučetić. Hrvatsko-talijanski frazeološki rječnik. Zagreb, 1995.

2. Vrgoč, Dalibor, and Željka Fink Arsovski. Hrvatsko-engleski frazeološki rječnik. Zagreb, 2008.

3. Bendow, Ivana. Hrvatsko-engleski frazeološki rječnik. Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 2009.

4. Hatim, Basil and Jeremy Munday. Translation An advanced resource book. Oxford, 2004.

5. Bassnet, Susan. Translation Studies, third edition. 2002.

6. Munday, Jeremy. Introducing translation studies. Theories and application, second edition. 2010.

7. Baker, Mona. In other words. A coursebook on translation. 2001.

8. Jakobson, Roman. On linguistic aspects of translation. Cambridge, 1959.

9. Dastjerdi, Hossein Vahid and Amineh Adelnia. Translation of Idioms: A Hard Task for the Translator. 2011.

10. Ivir, Vladimir. Teorija i tehnika prevođenja. Sremski Karlovci, 1978.

11. Ivir, Vladimir. The Semantics of False Pair Analysis. 1968.

12. Vinay, Jean-Paul and Jean Darbelnet. Comparative Stylistics of French and English. 1995.

13. Nida, Eugene. Towards a science of translating. Principles of Correspondence. Netherlands, 1964.

14. Larson, Mildred. Meaning Based Translation: A Guide to Cross Language Equivalence. London and New York: University Press of America. 1984.

15. Leonardi, Vanessa. Equivalence in Translation: Between Myth and Reality. Translation Journal: Translation theory. Volume 4, No 4., October 2000.

16. Oxford English Dictionary: https://www.oed.com/