

Spatial deictics in translation: a case of proximal demonstratives in English and Lithuanian

Recent research on deictic elements has made extensive use of translation corpora to demonstrate that asymmetries between translational paradigms signal subtle contrasts from a systemic and pragmatic perspective. The aim of the present case study is to identify the translation correspondences of the English spatial demonstrative *this* in the novel *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* by J. K. Rowling and its Lithuanian translation and to discuss the cross-linguistic contrasts within the analytical framework of translational explicitation and implicitation. The results indicate that in the prototypical situational usage there is a high degree of correspondence between *this* and its Lithuanian translation, while textual uses demonstrate low formal equivalence. A tendency to implicate stems from the null subject construction and object ellipsis in Lithuanian and is also a result of the availability of facultative deictic words in Lithuanian. The apparent systemic difference between the deictic systems of English and Lithuanian indicates a tendency towards optional implicitation and stylistic variation in literary translation. The prevalence of optional implicitations indicates that further research should consider the broader communicative contrasts between English and Lithuanian.

Key references

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