1 Delimitation of the Research Problem Area

1.1 Indicating a Niche

While the topic of translation procedures seems of considerable relevance within translation studies nowadays, there are actually very few textbooks or academic publications available dealing with this problem area. Whereas the topic at hand invites a good number of scholars to touch upon it rather tangentially in terms of one-off articles, we believe that this translatological problem area deserves a more focused treatment so as to make up for this shortfall. Therefore, the current state of affairs in the translation studies oriented literature motivated the presented research with the hope of filling a gap in the need for a complex analysis of translation procedures, enhanced to their comparing in two dissimilar text types, in particular.

Indeed, one of the ground-breaking and highly influential monographs homing in on translation procedures entitled *Stylistique comparée du français et de l’anglais* was written by Paris-born Canadians Jean-Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet as early as 1958. Paradoxically enough, despite soon becoming a pre-eminent work in the ambit of comparative stylistics and grammar, the English-speaking world did not witness its publication until 1995. Out of all English translation studies scholars, Peter Newmark seems to have been the only one who concerned himself with translation procedures to some extent. However, his take on translation procedures was rather succinct in the form of his 1981 model (see Newmark, 1981: 30-32). Perhaps this sketchy character of his original translation procedures proposal made him come up with an up-dated version thereof in his seminal 1988 publication *A Textbook of Translation*, where he devotes a whole chapter to translation procedures. In the context of continental-written publications attending to translation procedures based on the structural comparing of the English, German and French language pairs, a distinguishing monograph was written by Michael Schreiber in 1993. What all the above-mentioned translation theorists have in common, though, is that they attempted to call into attention the usefulness of the employment of translation procedures during the interlingual transfer from one language into another in order to increase effectivity of solutions for translation problems when overcoming conceptual and/or structural asymmetries between languages in the same communicative situations.
Interestingly enough, over the past decade, a good many articles touching upon partial translation procedures have been published in a variety of translation journals, testifying to the topicality and all-importance of this problem area. Among them to mention are articles penned by Salkie (2001) offering a new look at modulation, Klaudy and Károly (2005) delving into implicitation in translation, Sewell (2001) and Garnier (2009) analysing calques in comparable corpora. Recently, a number of researchers have also started to pay heed to explicitation, putting its up-until-now commonly accepted interpretation as a translation universal to the test (see Englund-Dimitrova, 2003; Pym, 2005; Kamenická, 2007; Baumgarten, Meyer and Özcetin, 2008 and Becher, 2010).

At a complex level, a critical review of translation procedures has been offered by Molina and Hurtado Albir (2002) in their seminal article, where, unlike the majority of extant approaches, they call for a dynamic and functional approach to translation procedures (or techniques) because in their view most studies of translation techniques do not seem to fit in with the dynamic nature of translation equivalence. According to them, if the dynamic dimension of translation is to be preserved, a translation technique can only be judged meaningfully when it is evaluated within a particular context, supporting the functional and dynamic nature of translation (Molina and Hurtado Albir, 2002: 508-509). Similarly, moving from treatises on separate translation procedures to a broad-brush picture of them, recent overview articles by Ordudari (2007) and Zakhir (2008), drawing on primarily Vinay and Darbelnet’s and Newmark’s earlier theoretical underpinnings, serve this end.

In Slovakia, any readings on translation procedures in their entirety have been almost completely absent so far, being restricted to less than a dozen articles, ranging from somewhat oldish essays by Bareš (1974) and Dokulil (1982), significantly influenced by transformational grammar and structuralist traditions, up to Hájiková’s short article (2005) on translation procedures in legal documents intermingled with an excursion into legal terminology, too. In this respect, the most comprehensive treatment of translation procedures endemic to legal texts has been provided by Gibová (2010) in her monograph. However, to this day, to the best of my knowledge no publication is currently available which would deal with a comparison of translation procedures in the non-literary and literary text, examining if different textual genres produce different translation procedures on the part of the translator.
Irrespective of this, the present publication by its focus endeavours to be responsive to the current trends in the research of legal and literary texts. Notably, well up to the present the research in the genre of legal texts has been first and foremost terminologically-oriented. Of supreme importance was so that legal terms embedded in the source legal systems were expressed by equivalent legal terms in the target legal systems, achieving the same degree of semantic correspondence and an identical legal effect (see Šarcevic, 2000; Škrlantová 2005; Šarcevic, 2006). However, after the so-called communicative pragmatic turn in the approach towards language system a sociological and ethnographic dimension of legal research has come to the forefront of interest (see Koskinen, 2008). Despite these novel tendencies, though, in recent years linguistic approaches to legal translations have bounced back with renewed vigour (see Šarcevic, 2006; Cao, 2007), thus doing justice to the overall take of the present publication.

As for the main developments in the study of literary texts, these have reflected the current strands in the evolution of literary theory. Functionalist approaches to tackling the study of literary translation began to be mooted in the 1970s and 1980s out of growing dissatisfaction with decontextualised approaches, so typical of structuralists. However, the explicitly functionalist skopos theory in the sense that it views translation as a ‘goal directed action’ (Nord, 1997), needed to suit different kinds of interests and expectations of target readers, has had “only limited impact on the study of literary translation [...] chiefly because audience expectations are notoriously hard to define in literature” (Hermans, 2007: 87). Next, post-structuralist ways of studying literary texts, with their two main critical currents of the 1990s, post-colonial and gender theory, analysing translation both as an instrument of domination control as well as a means of the identity construction, raise doubts about the very possibility of literary translation by emphasizing the instability of meaning and the materiality of language (ibid.: 89).

Last but far from least, although the application of linguistic frameworks to the analysis of literary texts had its heyday primarily in the 1960s and 1970s, under the impulse of transformational grammar and structuralism, this line of enquiry seems to be enjoying resurgence of interest, similarly to the trends discernible in the study of non-literary texts, as implied above. More recently, two lines of linguistic enquiry, i.e. corpus studies and critical linguistics, building on insights from pragmatics and discourse analysis, have been making vital inroads into the study of literary translation, too (ibid.: 85).
1.2 An Outline of Research Methodology

1.2.1 Aims & Objectives

The aim of the research is to compare translation procedures in two typologically dissimilar text types and subsequently find out their pertinent text genre characteristics. To this end, an EU institutional-legal text and an excerpt taken from the novel *The Shack* by William P. Young have been used.

As far as methodological considerations underlying this publication are concerned, before a corpus text analysis can take place, a theoretical framework, which would provide a point of departure for ensuing analyses, needs to be established. As this research contains a comparative dimension, before anything can be juxtaposed, there must be a somewhat clear picture of what non-literary and literary texts in most general terms are, what their essential typological specificities are and what bearing on translation they have. Similarly, in order to carry out a relevant corpus text analysis, translation procedures have to be investigated in terms of their essence, function, and impact on translation.

Therefore, the present thesis will be essentially theoretical-empirical. By means of the study of the secondary sources relevant pieces of knowledge necessary for the approach to non-literary and literary texts will be be inferred and consequently applied to the corpus text analysis zeroing in on comparing translation procedures. Granted, in order to perform a comparative analysis of translation procedures, the delimitation of crucial terms such as transposition, modulation, expansion, reduction, permutation, calque and borrowing has to take place first. Moreover, the gamut of the above-said translation procedures will have to be expanded in case of the literary text so as to comply with its considerably wider range of lexicos-structural language resources and metaphorical character. Vinay and Darbelnet’s (1958/1995), Newmark’s (1981, 1988) and Schreiber’s (1993, 1998) models of translation procedures will serve as crucial theoretical frameworks in the present work. The applicability of the synthesizing translation procedures model consisting of procedures such as those outlined above will be at the same time tested for the selected literary text.

Even if the models of translation procedures by Vinay and Darbelnet, Newmark and Schreiber will be taken as a point of departure, this does not mean, of course, that
other translation studies scholars’ interpretations of the investigated procedures will be strictly incompatible. Quite on the contrary, other elucidations of the examined phenomena will be put under scrutiny whenever it will be deemed necessary, useful or perhaps just thought-provoking to do so due to being sometimes at odds with some commonplace accounts. By combining approaches of text linguistics to characteristics of non-literary and literary texts, contrastive textual analysis and analytical-deductive methods enhanced by a comparative dimension, the identification facet of research will take turns with the interpretation line throughout the whole thesis layout.

1.2.2 Research Questions

Instead of a classic hypothesis, the following set of research questions, will be taken into account and answered in the process of the unfolding analysis: Will oblique translation procedures in the literary text surpass direct procedures? Will the non-literary text exhibit a foreignizing veneer? Will modulation be extremely frequent in the literary text translation? Which translation procedures will be distinctively characteristic for the literary text? These questions, however, blending both theoretical and empirical qualities, are very closely entwined and thus they ought to be researched synchronically. The key research questions, though, are the following: Do different textual genres lead to the employment of different translation procedures? What striking differences between examined translation procedures across the selected non-literary and literary text can be spotted?

1.3 Research Material Description

The thesis’ corpus is made up of an English EU institutional-legal document entitled Council Directive 2004/114/EC of 13 december [sic!] 2004 on the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service and a novel excerpt The Shack penned by William P. Young including their Slovak translations. The whole text corpus comprises a total of 16 179 words that will be subjected to a contrastive analysis. Both texts were
selected from diametrically opposite textual genres quite deliberately so as to gain a meaningful comparative dimension promising intriguing research results. An important research inclusion criterion, however, was a roughly comparable time period of a text’s production so that no significant shifts in language development left their mark on the examined textual genres. Further, the novel excerpt’s word count was tantamount to that of the legal text in order to warrant relevant research outcomes.

The EU institutional-legal document (for convenience’s sake hereinafter referred to as ‘non-literary text’), falls under secondary legislation of the EU. More specifically, it is sourced from the thematic repertoire of education and training. The analysed text was retrieved from EUR-Lex database’s website (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index/html) containing all EU legal documents published in the Official Journal of the European Union simultaneously in all, up to this date, twenty-three official languages. The selected non-literary text is approached as a paradigm text typifying legal language commonly used in EU institutions. What is of paramount importance, though, is that the non-literary text under discussion is a representative of a so-called ‘euro-text’. That is to say that such a text is marked by an officially prescribed style, which is manifested in a very high degree of language similarity (from text to text) so that it is possible to speak about its ‘matrix form’ (see Gibová, 2010: 103) or ‘homogenous discourse’ (Schäffner, 2001: 172).

On the other hand, the fiction sample The Shack (hereinafter abbreviated as ‘literary text’) is a novel with palpable religious undercurrents written by a Canadian author William P. Young and published in 2007. The Shack has become a publishing phenomenon in the United States and it was the top-selling fiction on the New York Times best sellers list from June 2008 to early 2010. Despite the success and wide appreciation by readership, the blockbuster novel has stirred criticism for its apparently edgy theological slant. On the other hand, as much as magnified it might seem, the novel’s reviewer Eugene Peterson uplifted the legacy of this work of fiction looking at deep moral issues and questioning one’s approach to faith and forgiveness by the following statement: “This book has the potential to do for our generation what John Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress did for his” (Young, 2007: book blurb). All in all, further particularities of non-literary and literary text as such will be examined in greater detail in Chapters 2.2 and 2.3 of this publication, respectively.

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1 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Shack.