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Nominalization, translation studies and critical stylistics:
A case study of EU-ese in parallel English-Slovak texts

Abstract

Combining translatological analysis and critical stylistics insights, the paper uses nominalization as a symptomatic stylistic marker of legalese, more precisely of EU institutional-legal texts. Cognitively, the paper draws on the textual-conceptual function of naming and describing within Jeffries' model (2010). Simultaneously, it is responsive to her appeal to compare the ways in which different languages (here English and Slovak) produce textual meaning. The present paper examines complex noun phrases and discusses the variability of their translations using quantitative measures to contrast English and Slovak legal texts. The study suggests that Euro-texts follow different linguistic strategies of nominalization in the two tested languages. Assuming texts can be tools of ideology, nominalization is explored as a means of the 'institutionalization' of translation by which EU institutions assert their textual presence by pre-selection of certain linguistic forms. An analysis of the translation of complex noun phrases reveals an uneven distribution of power in the institutional discourse produced as EU translators are obliged to use pre-selected linguistic forms/structures. In this way, their chances to influence the textual meaning-making are significantly diminished. The research outcomes stress the value of further transdisciplinary research anchored in translation studies methodologies in conjunction with critical stylistics.

Key words: nominalization, EU institutional-legal texts, EU translation, critical stylistics, ideology.

1. Introduction

Recently, critical stylistics emerged in reaction to the rise of critical discourse analysis as a new strand in linguistics with a special focus on ideology in language. Despite advances in the world of linguistics, as Jeffries and McIntyre (2010, p. 15) contend, "the unavoidable basis of all stylistics remains the text itself".

The general character of legal discourse results from the conventional purpose of law, which imposes duties and obligations, confers rights and stipulates permissions and/or prohibitions. The accomplishment of these pragmatic goals in legal texts is closely connected with certain linguistic means. The present paper focuses on nominalization as a symptomatic linguistic feature of English legalese (see Bhatia, 1994; Gibbons, 1994; Gibová, 2009 and Pavlíčková, 2012). I report here on a case study of nominalization in parallel English-Slovak EU institutional-legal documents. Nominalizations enable text drafters to classify events as abstract things and predicate over them. In other words, nominalizations are re-classifications of verbal predicates into nominal constructions (Heyvaert 2003).

In this paper, however, I discuss not just morphological nominalization, but the wider conceptual category. Following Jeffries' textual-conceptual function of naming and describing rooted within her 2010 model, nominalization is approached as an endemic feature and stylistic marker of specialized style in a specific textual sort of English legalese. According to Jeffries (2014, p. 409), textual-conceptual functions (being part of the ideational function of language drawing on Halliday's tradition) attempt to capture "what a text is doing conceptually in presenting the world [...] in a particular way". Thus, for my purpose here, nominalization stands for a particular variety of naming mechanism which may be seen as instrumental in conveying the textual world of EU institutions.

EU institutional-legal texts (hereafter referred to simply as 'EU texts') are stylistically a peculiar text genre within legalese. According to Schäffner and Adab (2001), they rank among so-called hybrid texts because they are a linguistic outcome of motley cultures and languages in contact. Marked by an ever increasing level of globalization in the contemporary world, hybrid texts epitomize contemporary intercultural communication. Originating under special circumstances in a multilingual environment at a supranational level, they typify hybrid *political* (emphasis added) texts (Trosborg 1997). EU texts result from a translation process and "allow the introduction into a target culture of hitherto unknown and/or socially unacceptable/unaccepted concepts through a medium which, by its non-conformity to social/stylistic conventions and norms, proclaims the otherness of its origin" (Schäffner and Adab, 1997, p. 328). As a consequence, EU texts exhibit features which somehow seem 'out of place', 'strange' or 'unusual' for the receiving, i.e. target culture (ibid.). Therefore, the influence of 'translationalese' is very prominent in these kinds of legal texts, often perceived as a linguistic representation of 'EU-ese', 'Euro-language', 'Euro-legalese' or 'Euro-fog'.

Seen from a translatological angle, EU texts may be put on a par with Newmark's semantic translation, marked by a great respect for the original. Here, the translator is heedful of the syntactic structures and stylistic particularities of the source text, transferring not only meaning but also the form of the original. Even though the distinction between the original and target text is a very sensitive issue in the EU policy of multilingualism (since it could imply superiority of a certain language and thus run against the principle of equality of EU's official languages), the 'original' used for translation into another official language holds a very strong status. This leads to a source-oriented approach on the part of EU translators striving to make multilingual translation possible.

Besides, what makes EU texts further stylistically unique is their uniform institutional style, terminological consistency and textual patterns which include a minimum degree of

variation. This is connected with the efforts of EU institutions to regulate and control their language in order to guarantee that all text recipients in the respective Member States receive the same message in multilingual legislation. Such a language policy obviously leads to their mirror-image-like nature. Although linguists may frequently grumble about EU texts' stylistic flaws in the widest possible sense, it should be made clear that when doing so, they judge them by criteria which do not really apply (see Dollerup, 2001, p. 285) and in this manner they manifest their lack of knowledge about this legal text type. Notably, there are currently a great many style guides in force in the EU setting (e.g. *English Style Guide, Joint Practical Guide* etc.) which compel EU translators to abide by pre-defined linguistic rules. This has a bearing on the choice of language inventory in the target language. Hence, it may be argued that EU translators are to a large extent swayed by a pre-set ideological linguistic landscape of EU institutions.

2. Nominalization: from traditional approaches to critical discourse analysis

As implied earlier, nominalization is a specialized stylistic feature of English legalese generally, and EU-ese specifically. Traditionally, it is understood as a process of turning a verb into a noun. According to Quirk et al. (1985, p. 1288), nominalization is construed as a process by which a verb phrase is transformed into a nominal. A similar approach is taken by Halliday (1985, p. 68) who interprets nominalization rather generally as "any element or group that can function as a noun or a noun group." Wells (1971, p. 213) looks at nominalization from a quantitative angle, considering a quantitative ratio of nouns to verbs as a relevant criterion. He describes nominalization as follows: "nominality and verbality are matters of continuous degree and ...the continuum is characterized by the proportion of nouns and verbs in a given text." However, it should be added that even though statistical insight into the ratio of nouns and verbs in a text may be definitely reliable (and is also used in this paper), 'nominality' of expression should also be supported with analysis of its use and function.

Here, critical discourse analysis (CDA) comes in as a very useful tool for analysis, attempting to unveil the hidden power relations constructed by means of the use of language. The concept of nominalization has been enormously important in the development of CDA, particularly in the early Fowler's work and the East Anglian School. Fowler et al. (1979, p. 41) think of nominalization as "a process of *syntactic* reduction" and as a "transformation which reduces a whole clause into its nucleus, the verb, and turns that into a noun" (1979, p.

39). They treat nominalization as if it were an entity, rather than an activity. Most importantly, critical discourse analysts have suggested that nominalization has significant ideological functions such as deleting agency[1] and reifying. This means that by agentless statements less information is conveyed and by converting verbs into nouns, the text drafters can convey that the entities, denoted by nominalization, have a real and necessary existence (Billig, 2008, pp. 784-785). In this manner, unequal power relations may be implied in discourse. According to Fowler (1991, p. 80), nominalization offers substantial ideological opportunities connected with its potential for *mystification* and the already mentioned *reification*. With respect to the former, with its "permitted habit of concealment, particularly in the areas of power-relations and writers' attitudes" (ibid.), nominalization, when transposed to EU texts, serves as a mystificatory textual tool of 'Euro-fog' to reproduce the workings of ideology, as it will be seen in section 4. As to the latter, with nominalization, processes assume the status of things: "impersonal, inanimate, capable of being amassed and counted like capital, paraded like possessions" (ibid.)

Even if the merits of CDA in the analysis of nominalization cannot be diminished, some critics have suggested that in certain contexts it is by no means mystificatory to use nominalization. Another line of criticism suggests that CDA analysts have failed to specify what sort of process nominalization is. If verbs are said to be transformed into nouns, then how, when and by whom is this transformation accomplished? Obviously, the answers to these questions can hardly be provided within the scope of the present undertaking.[2]

Turning attention to the gist of nominalization, its importance in text's meaning-making is acknowledged by Jeffries (2010, p. 25) when she contends:

> Critical Discourse Analysis points to nominalization as a process which is often a significant choice in the production of texts, because it is a morphological process which seems to work against the simple form-function relationships in English. Thus, if the nominal element in a clause has the primary function of naming the participants in an event, action or process, we would expect the head noun of the nominal elements in a clause prototypically to refer to a person, place or thing and for the verb phrase to indicate the kind of process that is taking place between these participants.

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[1] See Fairclough (2003, p. 144) who refers to nominalization as involving "the exclusion of Participants in clauses". He himself uses a nominal 'exclusion' rather than writing of communicants 'excluding participants' from clauses. If nominalization is a process, then it is a process that tends linguistically to conceal processes. Therefore, Fairclough sees nominalization as "the conversion of processes into nominals, which has the effect of backgrounding the process itself […] – and usually not specifying its participants, so that who is doing what to whom is left implicit" (qtd. in Billig, 2008, p. 792).
[2] See Billig (2008, pp. 787-788) on the concepts of linguistic, etymological, psychological, between-text and within-text nominalization.

One way or another, nominalization can also be understood as a means of condensation from the text drafter's point of view. However, a high incidence of nominal phrases in legal discourse results in the ambiguity of the legal message and works to the detriment of effective and intelligible communication, as some linguists admit (see Gibová, 2009, p. 329 and Pavlíčková, 2012, p. 6).

3. Data and methodology

The present paper aims to examine the extent of nominalization in the selected English-Slovak EU institutional legal texts and assess the ideological impact of EU language policy on the examined Slovak language version, using a critical stylistics framework. Hence, nominalization, enabling EU drafters to convey different experiential meanings related to entities, is examined as a tool of ideological power used by EU institutions.

More specifically, the paper takes a high degree of complexity in nominalization into account and discusses the variability of the translatological solutions in Slovak conventions established on the basis of quantitative measures. It should be added that the paper's goal is sensitively responsive to an urgent appeal made by Jeffries (2014, p. 413) that "there is work to be done on comparing the ways in which different languages create [a particular kind of] textual meaning." This implies that if one wishes to pursue a critical stylistic analysis of the text genre under investigation, it is necessary to work out not only what the text is doing but also how it is presenting EU institutions in their text world. For this reason, contemporary research into nominalization strongly calls for a functional rather than purely structural approach (see also Heyvaert 2003). This paper offers a fusion of both approaches as I consider this a reliable point of departure for a contrastive translatological analysis of two languages, such as (for my purpose here) English and Slovak.

Furthermore, the paper works on the central assumption that, in compliance with EU language policy, hybrid EU texts represent 'language matrices' (Gibová 2009) or 'mirror-images' (Sosoni 2012) filled with particular language content. Accordingly, it may be expected that the Slovak language version of the EU text is going to mimic the English source text in its language inventory choice, including nominalization. These assumptions constitute the core of the hypothesis that EU institutions are a more powerful linguistic authority in the text's meaning-making than are their translators.

The corpus underlying the present research is made up of parallel English and Slovak EU legislative texts, i.e. a Decision of the European Parliament and Council (1720/2006/EC). Both texts have been downloaded from the institutional EUR-Lex database containing EU legislation (http://eur-lex.europa.eu). The English EU institutional-legal text comprises 14,410 words whereas its pertinent Slovak language version has 12,895 words. Although the size of the corpus may at first glance seem small, the selected texts are representative of typical EU documents. The template structure of EU texts in terms of their language inventory may render the data applicable to analyses of larger quantities.

With regard to research methods, the paper employs a contrastive textual analysis backed up with quantitative analysis in the early stages. To this end, the SVM Tool v.1.3 software and a statistical regression analysis have been used to corroborate roughly the same degree of nominalization in both tested languages. Offering a good potential for interlingual comparison, multi-word compound nouns have been extracted in the next stage. The inclusion criteria are manifestations of the particular linguistic forms, which are compared across two languages. In the next strand of research, an extraction of English gerunds and –*ed* and –*ing* verb forms including their Slovak translatological equivalents, leading to complex noun phrases, has been carried out. What is important here is the qualitative interpretation of the data gained as this seems to be crucial in revealing the potential ideological implications. In this manner, nominalization is examined as a means of the 'institutionalization' of translation by which EU institutions assert their textual presence by imposing certain linguistic means on translators.

4. Analysis and discussion

However abstruse and/or arcane EU-ese may seem, the texts under study exhibit a relatively high degree of nominalization, as expected. This may be exemplified by the following text passage brimming with heavily post-modified noun phrases (noun phrases are given in round brackets).

In order to respond to (the increasing need for knowledge and dialogue on the European integration process and its development), it is important to stimulate (excellence in teaching, research and reflection in this field by supporting higher education institutions specialising in the study of the European integration process, European associations in the fields of education) and training and the Jean Monnet action).

(Reakciou) na (zvýšenú potrebu vedomostí a dialógu o európskom integračnom procese a jeho vývoji) je potrebné stimulovať (excelentnosť výučby, výskumu a reflexie v tejto oblasti podporovaním inštitúcií vysokoškolského vzdelávania, ktoré sa špecializujú na štúdium európskeho integračného procesu, európskych združení v oblastiach vzdelávania a odbornej prípravy, a akcie Jean Monnet).

As is evident from the above, EU text drafters used some evaluative elements by means of adjectives modifying the head noun and most importantly, prepositional phrases or relative clauses (in Slovak) qualifying them, crafting very complex noun phrases.

A high frequency of nominalization occurrence (see Gibbons 1994; Biel 2014) in both texts under analysis has also been confirmed statistically by means of the SVM Tool v.1.3 software. All nouns and verbs occurring in the examined texts have been sequentially tagged and results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Statistical Treatment of the Corpus Data

Pg.	English EU Text			Slovak EU Text		
	Number of words per page	Nouns (in per cent)	Verbs (in per cent)	Number of words per page	Nouns (in percent)	Verbs (in per cent)
1	876	31.39	10.15	799	35.16	7.75
2	886	29.11	12.18	798	33.41	10.88
3	926	28,94	8.31	843	33.57	6.64
4	816	32.23	10.29	701	34.52	8.13
5	872	32.68	10.77	795	31.94	8.30
6	683	34.11	8.49	571	41.85	4.02
7	867	27.45	10.95	711	33.33	9.28
8	808	30.32	9.65	675	38.66	6.07
9	904	30.64	9.40	712	39.32	4.93
10	663	31.97	7.69	529	41.20	6.04
11	667	30.73	10.64	618	36.08	5.17
12	766	30.93	10.57	668	38.77	7.03
13	695	33.52	9.78	638	37.77	5.64
14	696	28.73	9.62	600	36.33	5.66
15	724	27.90	11.46	628	37.33	6.68
16	866	27.82	9.58	844	34.47	5.92
17	665	30.22	7.66	588	37.07	5.10
18	592	33.27	8.27	530	36.22	4.15
19	603	23.71	13.76	527	34.53	7.77
20	671	28.76	12.96	600	35.16	8.33
21	672	30.95	7.73	573	36.30	5.58
22	581	30.98	11.70	537	32.58	9.12
23	654	29.20	10.39	550	37.63	6.36
24	602	28.60	9.66	504	33.54	5.88

The data in Table 1 have been further subjected to a regression analysis with the Octave software, assuming that the major word classes (i.e. nouns and verbs) in the English and Slovak EU texts are linearly dependent, i.e. being of the $a = q + k.\ s$ type, where "a" stands for the number of English nouns, "s" for the number of Slovak nouns, respectively, and "q" and "k" make for line parameters. My assumption about the linear dependence has been

confirmed statistically by the "*r*" correlation coefficient, which was close to the face value +1 (see Figure 1).
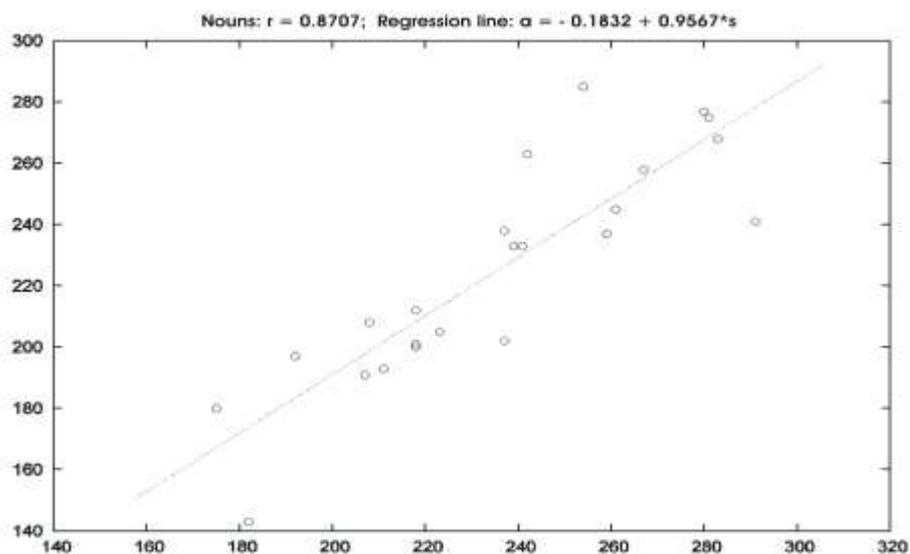

Figure 1: Regression analysis of the corpus data

Based on the data in Table 1 and Figure 1, it may be claimed that the degree of nominalization in both tested languages is more or less the same. This may be interpreted as proof of the template-like nature of the translated EU texts, which emulate their source texts (usually English ones). Moreover, the mirror-image-like nature of EU texts leads to identical means of the language inventory in the target language. Thus, EU language policy is reified in the linguistic facet of the texts under study as a manipulating force. EU translators are strongly required to choose such linguistic means in the target languages as prescribed in EU style guides (see e.g. *Interinstitutional Style Guide* 2015, pp. 54-62). Such an approach is to make multilingual translation feasible. According to Poláčková (1988, p. 25), when translating from English into Slovak, a much higher degree of nominalization should be expected in the English text, while the target text (or meta-text) should be more verbal. However, here the English source text as a stylistic representative of specialized legal style comprises inherent nominal features that are manifestly transferred into the pertinent Slovak language version. Hence, Poláčková's statement does not hold true in the case of European law translation.

As to this paper's goal in view of the variability of translation solutions associated with nominalization, its high frequency of incidence in the EU texts causes a vast array of problems from an interlingual point of view. These may be grouped firstly around the pre-

modification of English nominal phrases and secondly around the high frequency of occurrence of gerunds and non-finite verb forms (especially participles) functioning as sentence condensers.

The former may be instantiated by the following: *Community vocational training action programme ˈLeonardo da Vinciˈ* where the pre-modification of the head noun of the English noun phrase (Community vocational training) is rendered into Slovak by a shift into its post-modification (Spoločenstva pre odborné vzdelávanie), i.e. *akčný program Spoločenstva pre odborné vzdelávanie ˈLeonardo da Vinciˈ*. This is connected with a synthetic character of Slovak, which is manifest in its tendency to convey the relationships between words by means of inflectional endings and prepositions. The inflectional complexity of Slovak then leads to the post-modification rather than pre-modification of nouns when rendering multi-word compound nouns. Such a translatological solution definitely subscribes to a lesser structural ambiguity of the Slovak noun phrase. The selected examples result from a close contrastive textual analysis, which has revealed systematicity of this translatological phenomenon, as evidenced in Table 2.

Table 2: English pre-modification of the noun phrase's head noun
as Slovak post-modification

English EU Text	Slovak EU Text	Quasi-Slovak version
Community vocational training action programme Leonardo da Vinci	akčný program Spoločenstva pre odborné vzdelávanie Leonardo da Vinci	action programme of the Community for vocational training Leonardo da Vinci
European Union education and training systems	systémy vzdelávania a odbornej prípravy v Európskej únii	systems of education and training in the European Union
standard student mobility grant	štandardný grant pre mobilitu študentov	standard grant for mobility of students
stabilization and association process countries	krajiny zapojené do procesu prípravy a stabilizácie	countries involved in the process of preparation and stabilization
Community education, training and youth programmes	programy Spoločenstva v oblasti vzdelávania, odbornej prípravy a mládeže	programmes of the Community in the fields of education, training and youth
grant award procedures	postupy prideľovania grantov	procedures for awarding grants
new teacher training courses	nové kurzy odbornej prípravy pre učiteľov	new courses of training for teachers
border region cooperation	spolupráca medzi pohraničnými regiónmi	cooperation among border regions
National Academic Recognition Information Centre	Národné informačné centrá pre uznávanie dokladov o akademickom vzdelaní	National information centres for recognizing certificates of academic education
framework partnership agreement	rámcová dohoda o partnerstve	framework agreement on partnership

As can be seen, a contrastive analysis of the two languages suggests that Euro-texts seem to follow different linguistic strategies in nominalization: whereas English seems to prefer pre-modification of the head noun, Slovak favours its post-modification. However, the textual meaning created by EU drafters (and consequently by EU translators) remains essentially the same as it is required to be identical in order to achieve the same interpretation and application of law in the other language. It has to be noted, though, that the detected difference between the English and Slovak Euro-text is more a result of the interlingual structural difference of the core languages than a stylistic choice made by translators on the instruction of the EU.

Going back to the second stated problem of nominalization in EU-ese, the relationship between nominalization and the ideological power of EU institutions to rule and govern the language comes to the fore here in an evident manner. This is manifest by a set of certain prescribed rules set down in institutional publications that impose very precise linguistic forms/structures on EU translators. For illustration, gerunds, which also significantly contribute to the nominal character of English EU-ese, are to be rendered into Slovak according to *Manual of Precedents* mostly by a noun, e.g. *the importance of creating closer links ~ význam vytvorenia užších väzieb.*[3] Aside from gerunds, the occurrence of *–ed* and *–ing* participles also has a bearing on the nominal nature of the English source text. Similarly to gerunds, they are translated into Slovak using certain prescribed ways, which are binding for EU translators. Both *–ed* as well as *–ing* participles are mostly rendered into Slovak by a relative clause or a semi-clausal construction the stylistic function of which is to achieve a syntactic compression and in this manner prevent any prolixity in legal discourse. Despite the imposed linguistic representations for the target language, however, some additional linguistic realizations for the forms in question have been uncovered by a contrastive textual analysis. Although they are in the minority, they include nouns and zero equivalents, i.e. the absence of a linguistic form in the target language for its source language counterpart. The major findings of this part of translatological research are summarized and supported by the examples in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

Table 3: Linguistic realizations of English *–ing* verb forms in Slovak

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[3] Of course, this does not mean that Slovak verb forms of gerunds are not possible in EU-ese at all; due to structural meta-lacunae between English and Slovak, verb forms may also be used in places deemed more functional although this "runs counter" to official EU prescriptions.

Forms/structures	Per cent	English EU text	Slovak EU text
relative clause	64.80%	non-school institution providing apprenticeship training	Mimoškolská inštitúcia, ktorá poskytuje učňovskú odbornú prípravu
semi-clausal construction		framework agreements providing for their participation in Community programmes	rámcové dohody ustanovujúce účasť na programoch Spoločenstva
noun	35.20%	Member States take necessary steps to ensure the official running of the Lifelong Learning Programme at national level, involving all the parties concerned	Členské štáty podnikajú kroky na zabezpečenie účinnej realizácie programu celoživotného vzdelávania na národnej úrovni, pričom zapoja všetky strany
zero equivalent		to improve the quality and to increase the coherence of mobility involving pupils and educational staff in different Member States	zlepšiť kvalitu a zvýšiť objem mobility žiakov a pedagogických pracovníkov v rôznych členských štátoch

Table 4: Linguistic realizations of English –ed verb forms in Slovak

Forms/structures	Per cent	English EU text	Slovak EU text
relative clause	38.60%	research centres and bodies concerned with lifelong learning issues	výskumné centrá a orgány, ktoré sa zaoberajú otázkami celoživotného vzdelávania
semi-clausal construction	61.40%	Not less than 80% of the amount allocated to the Comenius programme	Aspoň 80% zo sumy pridelenej na program Comenius

The above linguistic patterns of nominalization clearly show that EU translators produce their translations under heavily controlled conditions. This has been demonstrated by mapping the incidence of relative clauses and semi-clausal constructions in Slovak, which are enforced by EU style guides. Hence, we are in a position to relate the results reported in this paper to conditions responsible for their production. Following Jeffries' (2010, p. 6) approach to critical stylistics that "all texts are ideological", I wish to reiterate that the textual world of EU documents is ruled by EU institutions and their specific language policy, which puts them in the position of ideological text producers. This is linguistically manifested in the 'institutionalization' of EU translation, i.e. the efforts of EU institutions to come to the fore in translated texts by pre-selecting means of translation for certain linguistic forms (i.e. gerunds and participles), which increase nominalization. The translatological analysis has revealed that EU translation is not a personal act of text's production, but a linguistically governed process by which EU institutions ensure their control over multilingual translation. This is to a

certain extent necessary if multilingualism with currently twenty-four language versions has to be functional in the EU environment.

It seems that the manipulating linguistic forces behind EU translations may be understood as conscious manoeuvres of their ideological text producers by which EU institutions are reified in language. Looking at the analysed texts as ideological, EU documents represent an uneven distribution of power. This is because translators in this setting are rather inert participants of a communication act: they cannot enforce their own alternative translation variants and in this fashion contribute to a text's meaning-making. Moreover, not being given a chance to influence the ways of translation may be interpreted as institutional restraint on their decision-making power. Hence, the paper's hypothesis has been also confirmed and attested translatologically.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, what remains to be reiterated when comparing the ways in which different languages create textual meaning in EU-ese is that although largely the same linguistic means may be used (as instantiated by a comparable degree of nominalization in both analysed texts), different linguistic strategies may be employed for their ultimate linguistic representation. This is also reflected in their translation. While pre-modification of the head noun tends to be used in multi-word compound nouns, post-modification of the analogous linguistic structures seems to be dominant in Slovak.

Although this study has also revealed a certain variability in the translation of the examined linguistic forms greatly contributing to the nominal character of the English EU-text, it still supports the fact that Euro-texts follow very precise linguistic rules for their linguistic shape. With respect to *–ing* and *–ed* participles, these were mostly translated by a relative clause and a semi-clausal construction in compliance with institutional style guides. Based on EU language policy, which compels EU translators to mimic their English source texts, EU documents typify language matrices or mirror images, so the sum results presented in this paper may be attributed to the conditions for their production. Therefore, stylistically, EU texts represent what I call hypnotic texts. The translator is obliged to be faithful to the source text due to imposed linguistic (and ideological) conditions, affecting the translated product. Going back to Jeffries's (2010, p. 6) leitmotif of critical stylistics that "all texts are ideological", one cannot disagree in the case of EU-ese. With nominalization as a particular

naming mechanism, EU institutions represent ideological producers, which come to expression in the way certain linguistic forms are pushed to the foreground shaping linguistic solutions in other languages, including Slovak, as this paper has attempted to demonstrate. Through its translational practices, the EU has been presented as a top-down linguistic regime of multilingual management that has to manage its language output in order to ensure communication among the Member States in a pan-European world. In this study, nominalization has been presented as a stylistic feature that shows ideological embedding with respect to the translation of gerunds and the examined verb forms.

Nonetheless, I make no particular claim of comprehensiveness; further research in the light of critical stylistics with regard to various languages and their discourses is necessary as this case study is only a beginning. Comparable legal texts may be taken as manifestations of a model of the language to be tested. All the same, the present paper may provide 'a launching pad' for deeper analyses of a particular body of data using the method of critical stylistics insights combined with translation studies methodologies.

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