

Verbs of cognition in translation between English and French

Daniel Henkel

Université Paris 8 – daniel.henkel@univ-paris8.fr

Abstract

The most common verbs expressing cognitive processes in English (*know, think*) and French (*connaître, savoir, penser*) were inventoried in a bi-directional English/French corpus including both human and machine-translated target texts. Significant differences in the frequency of *think/penser* were found between subcorpora of original and translated texts. Significant correlations were found between the frequencies of *know/savoir, think/penser* in corresponding pairs of source- and target-texts. Random samples of source/target pairs were taken for each verb to determine the proportions of correspondence between the most common translation counterparts and other alternatives. Greater diversity in translation counterparts was found in human-translated texts compared with machine-translated texts.

Keywords: Corpus, Translation, Cognitive Verbs, English, French, Quantitative analysis.