



Use of Parallel Texts in Cultural-Cognitive Linguistic Research: Viewpoint in Translation

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Cognitive Linguistics

- Cognitive linguistics: the study of natural language as a mental phenomenon.
- How humans use language to create understanding.
- How much universality and variation do we find cross-linguistically?
- “No two languages are ever sufficiently similar to be considered as representing the same social reality” (Sapir 1929:162).

Understanding and Meaning

- Various ways of understanding.
- Meaning of the picture resides in the way we understand it.
- Meaning of a situation resides in the way we verbalize it.



Viewpoint and Construal

- *The professors went to Brno for a conference.*
- *The professors came to Brno for a conference.*
- *How she [Alice] longed to get out of that dark hall!*
- *How she [Alice] longed to get out of this dark hall!*
- Typical PoV markers:
 - Deictic verbs, demonstratives, tense...
- Different linguistic manifestations, different construals.



What's New?

- Cognitive linguistics has taken advantage of various research methods.
 - Intuition-based.
 - Mono-lingual corpora.
 - Experimental (fMRI, EEG, eye-tracking).
- No systematic use of parallel texts yet.
 - Rojo and Ibarretxe-Antuñano 2013; Muskat-Tabakowska 2014; Slobin 1996, 2003; Tabakowska 1993; Wu 2004.

What Are Parallel Texts?

- Parallel texts as a collection of texts put alongside with their translations.
- Benefit: Verbalization of highly similar (if not identical) *social realities* (Sapir 1929) or *usage events* (Langacker 1987).
- Contextualized naturalistic data, with most variables controlled for.
- Use of world masterpieces.
 - Translations in various languages
 - More than one version in a given language
 - Inter- and intra-language variation
 - Commercial translations are of high quality

Methodological Concern

- What can use of parallel texts reveal that other methods cannot?
- What does the finding tell us about how languages differ, in terms of “representing the same social reality”?

Case Studies

- Simple TT: Deictic verbs across languages
- Multiple TTs: Narrative schema across languages

COME in Mandarin: *Lai*

<i>qian-bian</i>	<i>huang-he</i>	<i>pai</i>	<i>zaizhong-kache</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>jiashi-yuan</i>	<i>cong</i>
front-side	yellow-river	brand	big-rig-truck	DE	drive-man	from
<i>jiashi-shi</i>		<i>li</i>	<i>tiao-xia-lai,</i>	<i>zhan</i>	<i>zai</i>	<i>lu-bian,</i>
drive-room		in	jump-down-come	stand	LOC	road-side
<i>naonu</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>kan-zhe</i>	<i>ta...</i>			
angry	DE	look-IMP	her			

前边黄河牌载重卡车的驾驶员从驾驶室里跳下来，站在路边恼怒的看著她...

(Lit.) “The driver of the Yellow River big-rig in front of them came down by means of jumping and stared daggers at her from the roadside.”

(Published Translation) “The driver of the Yellow River big-rig in front of them jumped out of his cab and stared daggers at her from the roadside.”

Lai ‘Come’ vs. *Qu* ‘Go’

<i>qian-bian</i>	<i>huang-he</i>	<i>pai</i>	<i>zaizhong-kache</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>jiashi-yuan</i>	<i>cong</i>
front-side	yellow-river	brand	big-rig-truck	DE	drive-man	from
<i>jiashi-shi</i>		<i>li</i>	<i>tiao-xia-qu,</i>	<i>zhan</i>	<i>zai</i>	<i>lu-bian,</i>
drive-room		in	jump-down-go	stand	LOC	road-side
<i>naonu</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>kan-zhe</i>	<i>ta...</i>			
angry	DE	look-IMP	her			

前边黄河牌载重卡车的驾驶员从驾驶室里跳下去，站在路边恼怒的看著她...

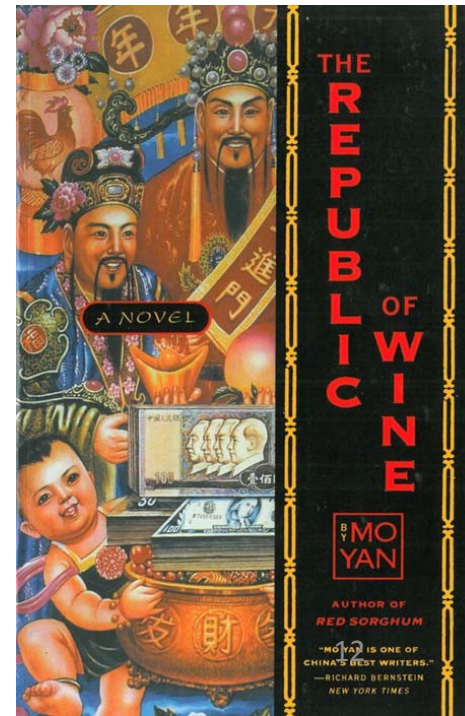
(Lit.) “The driver of the Yellow River big-rig in front of them went down by means of jumping from his cab and stared daggers at her from the roadside.” (constructed)

Specific Issues to Look at

- How is a Mandarin passage with a typical deixis, such as 來 *lai* 'come', translated into English?
- Is there any stylistic difference between the original and the translation, in terms of viewpoint management?
- What kind of cognitive coordination does this deixis and its translated counterpart involve?

Material Choice

- *酒國/The Republic of Wine* (Mo Yan).
- Translation by Howard Goldblatt.
- Only Chapter 1.



Frequency of COME in Mandarin

- 82 tokens of *lai* 'come' identified in the Mandarin version:
 - 40 tokens in deictic expressions
 - 42 tokens of *lai* in idiomatic expressions

Frequency of COME in English

- COME in the English version (incl. *come(s)*, *came*, *coming*):

16 (!) tokens identified

– 10 tokens in deictic expressions

– 6 in idiomatic expressions (*came up with the idea*, *he must come down to earth*, etc.)

Distribution of *Lai*

- In Mandarin, *lai* occurs predominantly as a resultative suffix in resultative constructions (cx).
- They account for 75% (30/40) in the deictic category.
- Constructional profile: *lai* as a viewpoint operator is attracted much more (3x more often) to the resultative cx than as a main verb.
- The distribution and frequency of translation equivalents in both lg *in the same usage event (representing the same conceptual content)*.

Resultative Constructions in Mandarin

- Cx Schema: V(-DIRrectional)(-DEIctic)
- V-DIR-DEI:

<i>qian-bian</i>	<i>huang-he</i>	<i>pai</i>	<i>zaizhong-kache</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>jiashi-yuan</i>	<i>cong</i>
front-side	yellow-river	brand	big-rig-truck	DE	drive-man	from
<i>jiashi-shi</i>		<i>li</i>	<i>tiao-xia-lai...</i>			
drive-room		in	jump-down-come			

(Lit.) “The driver of the Yellow River big-rig in front of them came down from his cab by means of jumping...”

(PT) “The driver of the Yellow River big-rig in front of them jumped out of his cab...”

Instance of V-DEI

<i>wo</i>	<i>shi</i>	<i>shi</i>	<i>li</i>	<i>pai-lai</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>xin</i>
I	am	city	in	send-come	DE	new
<i>kuang-zhang</i>						
mine-head						

我是市里派来的新矿长。

(Lit.) "I am the new Mine Director, from the city (they) sent (me) and (I) came."

(PT) "I'm the new Mine Director, sent here by municipal authorities."

Use of *Come* as a Dispreferred Option

<i>qian-bian</i>	<i>huang-he</i>	<i>pai</i>	<i>zaizhong-kache</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>jiashi-yuan</i>	<i>cong</i>
front-side	yellow-river	Brand	big-rig-truck	DE	drive-man	from
<i>jiashi-shi</i>		<i>li</i>	<i>tiao-xia-lai,</i>	<i>zhan</i>	<i>zai</i>	<i>lu-bian,</i>
drive-room		in	jump-down-come	stand	LOC	road-side
<i>naonu</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>kan-zhe</i>	<i>ta,</i>	<i>(zui</i>	<i>li</i>	<i>dunang-zhe</i>
angry	DE	look-IMP	her	mouth	in	murmur-IMP
<i>“an</i>	<i>ni-ma</i>	<i>ge</i>	<i>qiu!”)</i>			
press	you-mother	CL	ball			

(Lit.) “The driver of the Yellow River big-rig in front of them came down by means of jumping and stared daggers at her from the roadside, (murmuring “Stop pressing the fucking horn!”)”

(PT) “The driver of the Yellow River big-rig in front of them jumped out of his cab and stared daggers at her from the roadside.”

Translator's Improvisation

- An inserted passage: *Ding Gou'er could feel the anger radiating from the man's eyes through the gleaming surface of his mirror-lens sunglasses.*
- Use of cognition verb to access character's thought (note the use of present participles) as an "approximation" of the viewpointing effect (narrator taking character viewpoint).
- A difference in style and in construal remains.

The Importance of Being... Constructionist

- Disproportion accounted for by occurrences of a viewpoint marker in particular constructions.
- Influence of grammar on stylistics.
- And on constructional means to coordinate readers' cognitive states.
- Grammar: Speaker's tendency to associate certain words (*lai/qu*) with given constructions.

Viewpoint Markers That Get Across?

- Deictic COME: 10 (English), 40 (Mandarin)
- It seems that only 10 tokens of deictic COME have “survived” the translation.
- Only 5 tokens, out of 10, pair up with *lai* in the original.
- The rest, 50%(!), is the translator’s own invention.

Radical Invention: Opposite Viewpoint

<i>qing</i>	<i>ni-men</i>	<i>yansu-dian!</i>		<i>xianren</i>	<i>jiu-guo</i>	<i>shi</i>	<i>wei</i>
please	you-PL	serious-DIM		current	wine-country	city	committee
<i>xuanchuan</i>	<i>bu</i>	<i>fu-bu-zhang</i>		<i>Jin Gangzuan</i>		<i>shi</i>	<i>ci</i>
promote	deputy	vice-deputy-head		Jin Gangzuan		BE	this
<i>an</i>	<i>de</i>	<i>zhongyao</i>	<i>xianyiren,</i>	<i>ta</i>	<i>shi</i>	<i>cong</i>	<i>gui</i>
case	DE	important	suspect	he	BE	from	you-HON
<i>kuang</i>	<i>chu-qu</i>	<i>de.</i>					
mine	out-go	DE					

请你们严肃点！现任酒国市委宣传部的副部长金刚钻是此案的重要嫌疑人，他是从贵矿出去的。

(PT) "I must ask you to take this seriously. Liquorland's Deputy Head of Propaganda, Diamond Jin, who is a prime suspect, comes from your esteemed mine."

From Concept to Meaning and Form

- In Mandarin version, only the SOURCE (*cong* ‘from’) and PATH (*chu-qu* ‘out-go’) of the motion are linguistically elaborated.
- Direction: away from the speaker
- *Go (out) from* would make THE ideal translation.

Cx Profile in the Way

- Constructional profile: 70% (14/20) in *go from* involves a very specific pattern of *go from X to Y* (cf. *come from*: 0%).
- *Go from X* prefers a construction with GOAL specified than without.
- As a result *go from X* alone does not sound natural enough in that context (where the GOAL is not specified in the ST).
- The entrenchment of the full pattern *go from X to Y* makes *go from X* a less ideal choice (though not impossible).

Summary

- Differences and mismatches abound in the parallel texts.
- Each lg has its own unique way of utilizing deictic elements as a PoV operator when “representing the same reality”.
- Should be seen as the translator’s spontaneous response to the differences between the two systems.
- Makes sense only when we view grammar as a system of cog routines with varying degrees of entrenchment.

What Parallel Texts Have Revealed

- Difference in frequency and distribution of translation equivalents *in the same usage event*.
- Translator's improvisation and a consequent difference in construal.
- The fact that the same reality may *need to be* presented from opposite viewpoints in different languages *when grammar dictates*.

From Grammar to Stylistics

- The stylistic/narrative convention is grammatically bound (use of deictic verbs as viewpointing devices).
- Highly conventionalized.

Narrator and Character Viewpoint

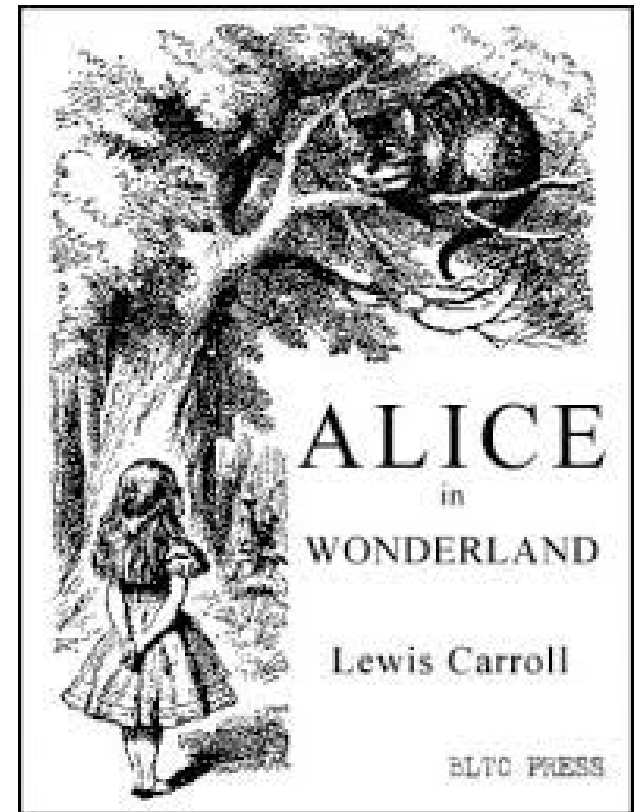
- You heard a sentence by John last week: “*I will be on time tomorrow.*” How would you report it now?
 - Direct Discourse
 - *John said, “I will be on time tomorrow.”*
 - Free Indirect Discourse (mixed verbal representations)
 - *John promised that he would be on time tomorrow.*
 - Indirect Discourse
 - *John promised that he would be on time the next day.*

Research Issues

- How do different languages verbally package the same stylistic effect of mixing PoV (in different ways)?

Material Choice

- *Alice in Wonderland*
- Famous for its juxtaposition of different voices (Muskat-Tabakowska 2014)
- Use in typological (Ververk 2014) and translation/poetic studies (M-T 2014)



Narrator's voice in *Alice in Wonderland*

- *(2) Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it...*
- Is there Alice's fingerprint? Or the narrator takes the full responsibility?

Alice's PoV?

- (3) ... *but it had no pictures or conversations in it, 'and what is the use of a book,' thought Alice 'without pictures or conversations?'*
- Structural features:
 - The presence of *and*.
 - *and* in lower case.
 - Comma.
- Also Alice's thought that precedes the direct thought.

What makes the mixture possible?

- The flexible position of the reporting clause in English
 - (3) ... *but it had no pictures or conversations in it, 'and what is the use of a book,' thought Alice 'without pictures or conversations?'*
 - (3a)... *but it had no pictures or conversations in it. Alice thought, 'and what is the use of a book without pictures or conversations?'* (constructed)

Recurrent Pattern (2)

- (4) ... *but she could not even get her head through the doorway; 'and even if my head would go through,' thought poor Alice, 'it would be of very little use without my shoulders.*
- Structural features:
 - Conjunction *and*
 - *and* in lower case
 - Semi-colon before the quote
 - Interpolated reporting clause

Counterargument

- In English we often use *and* as a discourse marker.
- Alice's thought and the narrator's lg need not bear any connection.

Another Conjunction

- (5) ... *she felt a little nervous about this; 'for it might end, you know,' said Alice to herself, 'in my going out altogether, like a candle.*
- Structural features:
 - Inferential conjunction *for*
 - *for* in lower case
 - Use of semi-colon
 - Interpolated reporting clause

Narrative Schema of Mixing PoV

- In *AiW* in English:
[FULL CLAUSE] – [SECONDARY BOUNDARY MARK] –
[“COORDINATING CONJ” – [FRAG 1,”] – [REPORTING CLAUSE,]
– [“FRAG 2”]
- Grammar:
 - Sequentiality of elements
 - Use of coordinating conjunctions
- Typographic convention:
 - Use of letter case
 - Use of punctuation

Alice in Mandarin

- Why Mandarin?
- Y.R. Chao
- L.F. Chen
- H.H. Wang
- W.Y. Jia and W.H. Jia
- Not only inter- but intra-lg comparison



How About Mandarin?

- In the four translations of (3), none has the reporting clause interpolated.

Chao's Translation of (3)

<i>ta</i> she	<i>youshihou</i> sometimes	<i>tou-tou</i> secret-RED	<i>di</i> DI	<i>qiao</i> see	<i>ta</i> she	<i>jie-jie</i> sister-RED		
<i>kan</i> read	<i>de</i> LINK	<i>shi</i> PRT	<i>sheme</i> what	<i>shu,</i> book	<i>keshi</i> but	<i>shu</i> book	<i>li</i> in	<i>you</i> PRT
<i>meiyou</i> NEG	<i>hua-er,</i> picture-DIM	<i>you</i> also	<i>meiyou</i> NEG	<i>shuohua,</i> speech	<i>ta</i> she	<i>jiu</i> PRT		
<i>xiang-dao,</i> think-COMP	<i>“yi-ben-shu</i> one-CL-book	<i>li</i> in	<i>you</i> PRT	<i>meiyou</i> NEG	<i>hua-er,</i> picture-DIM			
<i>you</i> also	<i>meiyou</i> NEG	<i>shuohua,</i> speech	<i>na-yang-shu</i> that-kind-book	<i>yao</i> want	<i>ta</i> it			
<i>gansheme</i> what for	<i>ne?”</i> PRT							

Wang's Translation of (3)

<i>suiran</i> although	<i>ta</i> she	<i>ye</i> also	<i>ceng</i> in the past	<i>zai</i> LOC	<i>yipang</i> aside	<i>kuishi</i> peek	
<i>jie-jie</i> sister-RED	<i>suo</i> REL	<i>yuedu</i> read	<i>de</i> DE	<i>shuji,</i> book	<i>que</i> but	<i>yin</i> because	<i>shu</i> book
<i>zhong</i> in	<i>wu</i> NEG	<i>tu</i> picture	<i>ye</i> also	<i>wu</i> NEG	<i>duihua</i> conversation	<i>de</i> LINK	<i>neirong</i> content
<i>er</i> CONJ	<i>juede</i> feel	<i>suoranwuwei.</i> bored stiff		<i>ailisi</i> Alice	<i>xin</i> heart	<i>xiang:</i> think	<i>“meiyou</i> NEG
<i>tuan</i> picture	<i>ye</i> also	<i>meiyou</i> NEG	<i>duihua</i> conversation		<i>de</i> LINK	<i>shu</i> book	
<i>you</i> have	<i>sheme</i> what	<i>yongchu</i> usefulness	<i>ne?</i> PRT				

Approximation of PoV effect in Mandarin

- The narrative schema in English simply does not get through.
- Viewpointing effect APPROXIMATED by different lexical means:
 - Use of *yin* ‘because’ (Wang)
 - Use of demonstrative *na* ‘that’ (Jia, nciku)
 - Use of emphatic constructions *you... you..., ji... ye...* (similar to *neither... nor...* in English)
- Different construals introduced.

Translations of (4)

- Three out of the four have the reporting clause interpolated (!?).
- Such pattern is not found at all in the general corpus.
- Local syntactic borrowing in the translations.
- Recent and genre-specific phenomenon (how will that evolve?).

Chen's Translation of (4)

<i>danshi</i> but	<i>ta</i> she	<i>lian</i> even	<i>tou</i> head	<i>dou</i> PRT	<i>ji-bu-jin</i> squeeze-NEG-in	<i>na-shan</i> that-CL
<i>men.</i> door	<i>“jiusuan</i> even if	<i>wo</i> I	<i>de</i> LINK	<i>tou</i> head	<i>ji-de-jin,”</i> squeeze-Pfv-in	<i>kelian</i> poor
<i>de</i> LINK	<i>ailisi</i> Alice	<i>xin</i> heart	<i>xiang,</i> think	<i>“jianbang</i> shoulders	<i>ye</i> PRT	<i>ji-bu-jin-qu...</i> squeeze-NEG-in-go

PoV Effect in the Borrowed Structure?

- NO.
- Only 1 token of coordinating conjunction out of 12 (3 * 4 ver).
- The Mandarin versions do not have intra-language consistency for the similar PoV operation at all.

Summary

- In Carroll's *AiW*, the stylistic effect of mixing PoV is achieved by a combination of gr and typo means.
- Has a consistent structural pattern.
- English-specific.
- No inter-/intra-translator consistency in another lg.

Cultural Tools and Stylistics

- Gr and typo of a lg encourages speakers to “represent same social reality” its own way.
- Culture-specific tools that a text producer has available for stylistic purposes.
- Highly conventional.

The CL Enterprise

- Empiricism-based:
 - Evidence in parallel texts
 - Structural patterns beyond the lexical level
- Outreach: A promising approach to poetics, narratology and translation studies
- Use of translations as an innovative method in CL research

Take-home Messages

- Use of parallel texts as a useful methodology in CLR.
- Translation as a window to the interaction of grammar, stylistics and thinking.
- The study of stylistics and translation cannot do without (constructional) grammar.

THANK YOU!

謝謝！

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