

Translation of Italian nominalizations into Slovene: a corpus-based study¹

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ABSTRACT

The article focuses on nominalization as grammatical metaphor and on its translation from Italian to Slovene. It would seem that grammatical metaphor is more frequent in certain languages than in others. With the use of Italian and Slovene monolingual corpora and especially with the aid of an Italian-Slovene parallel corpus, this hypothesis has been tested and other related phenomena have been analysed, such as the different distribution of nominalizations in different text types and the influence of lexical density on the acceptability of a translation.

After a brief definition of nominalization, a study on the frequency of nominalization in the FIDA and La Repubblica corpora is presented. The results are compared with an analysis of the frequency of nominalization in the Italian-Slovene parallel corpus ISPAC. Afterwards, the presence of nominalization is also verified in the two sub-corpora of ISPAC, containing literary and non-literary texts, in order to assess the results against the hypothesis that, historically, the origins of grammatical metaphor lie in the emergence of scientific discourse. Next we concentrate on the element of lexical density and its influence on the acceptability of Slovene translations compared to original texts. The difficulty of translating texts loaded with nominalizations in Slovene is aggravated by the frequent use, in Italian, of non-finite verb forms, which constitute another problematic area in

1 This work was supported in part by the research fellowship of the Consorzio per lo sviluppo internazionale dell'Università di Trieste. Some of the data has been extracted from the Slovene corpus FidaPLUS, created and maintained by the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana.

translation. Finally, the strategies used by the translators of the texts collected in the ISPAC corpus are analysed. Apart from the most straightforward version with a nominalization being translated as a nominalization, a congruent translation (i.e. one using a verb to realize a process) of a metaphorically worded process in Italian is the most common option, while there are also several other possibilities that seem to occur regularly, such as adjectival or adverbial metaphorical realizations.

1. INTRODUCTION

Translation Studies has been relying on corpus evidence since the early 1990s and the importance of corpus research for Translation Studies has often been pointed out, one of the first scholars to recognize its potential being Baker (1995), while its relevance for Translation Training has been discussed, among others, by Bernardini (2006), Machiniewski (2006) and Zanettin (1998). Nominalization, as a phenomenon with unequal distribution in different languages (see Halliday & Martin 1993), often poses a problem as to whether it is appropriate (i.e. acceptable in the target language as far as style and idiomaticity are concerned) to translate a source text nominalization with a target text nominalization. The latter usually indeed exists as a lexico-grammatical entity, though its use in reality may be rather limited. And if we do not use a nominalization, what else is available or, rather, idiomatically (more) acceptable? What is the ratio between the frequency of nominalizations in the two languages concerned and what are, in translated texts, the proportions of the various possible translation options for a nominalized construct in the source text? The answers to these and other questions about the two languages in question are at the heart of this article.

Another aim of this paper is to show how the analysis of a specific translation problem such as the translation of nominalizations from Italian to Slovene can be applied to translation teaching. One of the difficulties when teaching translation to students working with 'small' languages is that there is often very little or virtually no material available: the number of studies carried out on pairs including one such language is limited (certainly as far as Italian and Slovene are concerned) and teachers, as well as practicing translators, have to rely on their own resources. As far as specific translation problems are concerned, relying exclusively on one's own competence and judgment is far from ideal, therefore the data available in parallel translation (and other kind of) corpora can prove extremely useful.

2. DEFINITION OF NOMINALIZATION

Nominalizations, as defined by Halliday (1994; Halliday & Matthiessen 2004) within systemic-functional grammar, are a kind of grammatical metaphor. The concept of metaphor, which usually applies to the semantic plane, is used by Halliday to identify a shift in the grammar from a congruent mode to a less congruent, metaphorical one:

[...] there are what speakers recognize as typical patterns of wording, and it is these that we are calling 'congruent' forms. Since construing experience in the form of language is an already inherently metaphorical process, it is no surprise to find a further dimension of metaphor present within language itself. So as well as recognizing what is congruent, we also recognize that there are other possibilities, where the typical pattern has not been used and the speaker or writer has chosen to say things differently (Halliday 1994: 343),

These other possibilities are what Halliday calls grammatical metaphors.

A process which is congruently realized by a verb can be thus metaphorically realized by a noun that expresses the same process. For example, the process realized in the following sentence by the verb *absorb*:

the atomic nucleus absorbs energy

can be realized by the nominalization *absorption*:

*the absorption of energy by an atomic nucleus,*²

When such a rewording takes place, the participants in the process change their function as well: the subject and the object become postmodifiers of the new head of the nominal phrase. Among a number of other effects that such a metaphorical rewording causes (on the textual, interpersonal and ideational levels, cf. Halliday & Matthiessen 1999 and 2004), the one that seems most relevant from the point of view of translation is the change resulting from the textual metafunction and, in particular, the thematic organization of the text.

As we have seen, the process of nominalization allows the speaker or writer to realize a process as a thing, and to code the direct and indirect participants to the process as pre- and postmodifiers. Such wordings result in sentences with a high lexical density (i.e. the number of lexical words per clause, as opposed to grammatical words; cf. Halliday & Martin 1993: 76): the lexical density of sentences containing nominalizations is usually considerably higher than in their congruent, non-metaphorical counterparts.

But not all languages cope equally well with high levels of lexical density: there is a difference, in this respect, between Italian and Slovene, which shall be discussed below. Before that, some statistical data about the frequency of nominalization in these two languages will be discussed.

Since, as Granger (2003: 19) states, both parallel and comparable corpora have advantages and drawbacks, the ideal solution for research would be to use both, if available. For Italian and Slovene, no comparable nor parallel corpora were previously available.³ The research work into the frequency and translation equivalents of nominalizations in Slovene and Italian was thus divided into two main areas: one is concerned with the study of original Slovene and Italian texts, and the other deals with Slovene translations of Italian texts. A comparable corpus being unavailable, the former was carried out with the aid of two monolingual corpora, while the latter involved work with the ISPAC corpus (Italian-Slovene Parallel Corpus), which was created ad hoc.

2 The example is quoted in Halliday in Matthiessen (1999: 241-242).

3 To my knowledge, as of April 2010, there is no Italian-Slovene comparable corpus available for research.

3. THE FREQUENCY OF NOMINALIZATIONS IN SLOVENE AND ITALIAN

To establish the frequency of nominalization in the analysed languages, its presence in original texts in both languages was verified. Since, as we have seen above, no parallel corpus is available for the language pair, we had to make do and use existing monolingual corpora,⁴ *La Repubblica* for Italian and FIDA for Slovene. These corpora are both quite large, therefore the frequency of the nominalizations was determined by way of manually counting their occurrences among the 5,000 most frequently used nouns in each corpus (cf. Mikolič Južnič 2007: 135-140). In the FIDA corpus, such nominalizations include examples such as *podpis* and *začetek* in the clause *Podpis pogodbe pomeni začetek rekonstrukcije mariborskega letališča*, while among the examples in *La Repubblica* we may find for example *firma* and *prestito* as in *La prima riguarda la firma del prestito Enel di 300 milioni di dollari*.

The analysis shows that there are almost 60 % fewer nominalizations among the most common nouns in the FIDA corpus than in the *La Repubblica* corpus (see Table 1).

Corpus	Nominalizations	Other nouns
<i>La Repubblica</i>	26 %	74 %
FIDA	15 %	85 %

Table 1: Proportion of nominalizations and other nouns in the two monolingual corpora

The difference is overwhelming and, despite the different nature of the two corpora, worthy of attention. It is not our intention to stress the actual numbers, but the much greater frequency of nominalization in Italian seems to confirm the tendency noticed by professional translators. It also seems to confirm similar findings emerged in comparisons between Slovene and other languages, e.g. English (cf. Klinar 1996, Plemenitaš 2004), as well as in studies concerning the changes in Slovene in the last few decades (cf. Žele 1996). The same tendency, as we shall see, was also confirmed by the analysis of the aforementioned parallel corpus of Italian original texts and Slovene translations.

4. NOMINALIZATION IN THE ISPAC corpus

It has been observed (cf. Calvino 1971, Fioritto 1997, Cortelazzo 2004) that there is a strong tendency towards nominalization in Italian, particularly in scientific, technical and bureaucratic texts, but also in other genres, as we shall see below.

4 *La Repubblica* and FIDA are not exactly comparable corpora, as they are structured in very different ways. *La Repubblica* is a collection of newspaper articles, while FIDA is a balanced collection of various texts types and has a smaller number of tokens (*La Repubblica* has around 380 million tokens, FIDA only 162 million), yet the analysis focuses exclusively on the most frequent nouns and should therefore be a reflection of the most common principles regarding the use of nouns – and nominalizations in particular – in both languages.

To gain more insight into the differences between Slovene and Italian, the need arose for a parallel corpus of the two languages which would allow us to observe how nominalizations are translated in practice. And since there was no such corpus available, a small one was expressly created for this purpose. The ISPAC parallel corpus is made up of roughly 50% literary texts (novels and short stories) and 50% non-literary texts (academic texts, largely – but not only – from the humanities) published mainly in the last fifteen years and translated into Slovene in the last ten years. Each part of the corpus (Italian and Slovene) comprises a little over one million tokens.

The analysis of the frequency of nominalizations confirmed that the use of nominalization is indeed more frequent in Italian than in Slovene, as was also suggested by the analysis of the two monolingual corpora mentioned above. In ISPAC, the analysis concentrated on those nominalizations that could be analyzed by their ending (e.g. the Italian ending *-zione* as in *trasformazione*, or *-mento* as in *cambiamento*), as ISPAC is currently untagged and does not allow searches for specific types of words or words similar to the node word.⁵

As far as the results of said analysis are concerned, in the Italian section of ISPAC, 31,516 nominalizations were found, while in the Slovene section, there were 25,412 instances. In other words, there were almost 20% fewer nominalizations in the Slovene translations than in the Italian originals, which seems in line with the data collected from the monolingual corpora presented above, although the difference in the frequency of nominalization between the two languages is much lower in the ISPAC corpus than in the case of the monolingual corpora.

Although it is not the aim of this article to research the causes for this difference, we shall briefly mention the potential reason for such a difference in frequency. Source texts tend to influence target texts in one way or another and we believe the most likely cause for the relatively high presence of nominalization in the Slovene translations to be interference (see section 6.2. below), as defined by Toury (1995: 275), who introduces the concept with the following well-known quote “In translation, phenomena pertaining to the make-up of the source text tend to be transferred to the target text.”

5. NOMINALIZATION AND TEXT TYPE

To an extent, nominalization has always been present in language, although it was only in the 17th century that it has achieved such a frequency of occurrence that it became the predominant feature in scientific writing, which came into existence with the birth of modern science (cf. Halliday and Martin 1993: 15). In Italian, the father of this new nominal style was Galileo Galilei, the founder of modern science and scientific language (cf. Altieri Biagi 1993: 949). The phenomenon spread quickly among other authors of scientific texts and from

5 A project concerned with building a multilingual parallel corpus is under way (cf. Vintar 2009) and ISPAC is to become part of this corpus. As the other texts in the new, larger corpus, it will be tagged and lemmatized.

there, over the last three or four centuries, nominalization penetrated almost every written register of modern Italian.

As Halliday and Martin (1993: 12-13) note for English (and a number of other languages, including Italian), grammatical metaphor has evolved in scientific prose, so it is only natural to expect a great presence of the phenomenon in this register. The fact that the ISPAC corpus is composed, in both languages, of roughly equal proportions of literary and non-literary (mostly scientific) texts, allows us to check whether there is any difference in the frequency of nominalization between these two registers.

According to the evidence collected, there is indeed a noticeable difference between literary and non-literary texts: only approximately one quarter of all nominalizations analysed in the Italian half of the corpus were found in literary texts; the rest were found in non-literary ones. In Slovene, the proportion is slightly more weighted towards non-literary texts: only 22 % of the nominalizations were found in literary texts (see Table 2).

Corpus	Italian	Slovene
Literary section	24 %	22 %
Non-literary section	76 %	78 %

Table 2: Distribution of the Italian/Slovene nominalizations in the two sub-corpora of the ISPAC corpus

To an extent, these results may appear surprising, especially where Italian is concerned. It is quite frequently argued (cf. Ardrizzo & Gambarara 2003, Cortelazzo 2004, Crivello 1998, Beccaria 2002) that apart from scientific, technical and bureaucratic texts, Italian texts *in general* contain too many nominalizations, that they have penetrated practically all genres of adult writing, as we have mentioned above, most notably newspaper articles and even literature. Nevertheless, it would seem that their frequency is still considerably higher in scientific texts.

As far as Slovene is concerned, the situation is as expected, both from the point of view of the effects of interference from the source texts and from the viewpoint of the general frequency of nominalization observed in the language and its historical pattern of spreading from one genre to another (the literary genre being among the last to be ‘infected’).

6. NOMINALIZATION, LEXICAL DENSITY AND READABILITY

Where translators did not use nominalized constructs, the parallel corpus shows a number of other options in Slovene. The most common solution involves a verb – the verb expressing the process which is realized as a nominalization in Italian. In example (1),⁶ for instance, the nominalization *comportamento* (*behaviour*) is translated into Slovene by the verb *vesti se* (*to behave*).

6 All examples quoted come from the ISPAC corpus, unless otherwise stated.

- (1) a. Da te non mi sarei mai aspettato un comportamento così sciocco.
 b. Od tebe ne bi niti v sanjah pričakoval, da se boštako neumno vedla.
 c. Od tebe ne bi niti v sanjah pričakoval tako neumnega vedenja.

One characteristic of Slovene that has important consequences for the translation of nominalizations is its relative reluctance to accept lexically extremely dense sentences (cf. Žele 1996: 192). By unpacking a grammatical metaphor such as a nominalization and wording it congruently with a verb in Slovene, lower lexical density is achieved while the sentence often becomes not only more acceptable, but also easier to understand (cf. Žele 1996: 192). Clearly, in a sentence as simple as the one in the example shown, a metaphorical wording would also be perfectly acceptable in Slovene, as we can see in the proposed version shown in (1c). Yet the effect of the latter is slightly more formal and somehow incongruent with the second person singular pronoun present in the first part of the clause (*tebe*) – even more so, if we consider that the sentence is part of a literary text that is supposed to reflect the spoken language.

Even non-literary texts hardly tolerate extremely high lexical density in Slovene. In example (2) there are three nominalizations packed into one nominal phrase: *L’AFFERMARSI della SEMPLIFICAZIONE tecnica nella PRODUZIONE degli oggetti*. The structure is translated by a very similar structure in Slovene (*UVELJAVITEV tehničnega POENOSTAVLJANJA v PROIZVODNJI predmetov*), most probably as a result of interference (see below).

- (2) a. [...] d’altro lato, però – e ciò è importante – *l’affermarsi della semplificazione tecnica nella produzione degli oggetti* prepara anche le condizioni perché possa accadere una liberazione dell’arte da molte convenzioni ed errori del passato [...].
 b. Vendar po drugi strani *uveljavitev tehničnega poenostavljanja v proizvodnji predmetov*, in to je pomembno, pripravi ugodne razmere za osvobajanje umetnosti od številnih konvencij in zmot preteklosti [...].

The first part of the sentence could be reworded in this way: *Ker se je uveljavila proizvodnja predmetov, ki je tehnično bolj enostavna, so po drugi strani nastale ugodne razmere, da se je umetnost lahko osvobodila...*, becoming lexically less dense and more in tune with the norms and conventions of Slovene text-writing.

6.1 NON-FINITE VERB FORMS AND NOMINALIZATIONS

The effect of frequent nominalizations becomes obvious if we look at longer, more complex examples, as it is perhaps not the nominalization in itself but rather the lexical density associated with nominalization noted above that is the source of the problem in translation. Let us have a look at example (3), taken from a non-literary text about politics:

- (3) a. Una terza ragione *PER DICHIARARE* decaduta e *RESPINGERE* la vecchia diade sta *NELL’OSSERVARE* che essa ha perso gran parte del suo valore descrittivo, perché la società in continua *TRASFORMAZIONE* e *IL SORGERE* di nuovi problemi politici – e qui chiamo problemi politici quelli che richiedono *SOLUZIONI* attraverso gli strumenti tradizionali *DELL’AZIONE* politica, cioè *DELL’AZIONE* che ha per scopo la *FORMAZIONE* di *DECISIONI* collettive che una volta *PRESE* diventano vincolanti per tutta la collettività – ha fatto nascere movimenti che non rientrano, ed essi

stessi ritengono o presumono *DI NON RIENTRARE* nello schema tradizionale della *CONTRAPPOSIZIONE* di destra e sinistra.

- b. Tretji razlog, *ZARADI KATEREGA NAJ BI OKLICALI* staro diado za pokojno in jo *ZAVRGLI*, tiči v *UGOTOVITVI*, da je ta diada v veliki meri izgubila svojo opisovalno moč, kajti družba, ki se brez prestanka *SPREMINJA*, in *NASTAJANJE* novih političnih problemov – in tukaj imam za politične probleme tiste, ki terjajo *REŠEVANJE* s tradicionalnimi orodji političnega *DELOVANJA*, to je *DELOVANJA*, katerega cilj je *OBLIKOVANJE* kolektivnih odločitev, ki potem, *KO SO SPREJETE*, postanejo zavezujoče za vso skupnost – sta povzročila nastajanje gibanj, ki jih ni moč vključiti v tradicionalno shemo *NAVZKRIŽJA* med levico in desnico in ki tudi sama trdijo ali pa predpostavljajo, *DA NE SODIJO* vanjo.

This is a single complex sentence which, in the original version, contains ten nominalizations in total (*l'osservare, valore, trasformazione, il sorgere, soluzione, azione, azione, formazione, decisione, contrapposizione*). In the Slovene translation, only seven nominalizations of processes remain (*ugotovitev, nastajanje, reševanje, delovanje, delovanje, oblikovanje, odločitev*); one nominalization has been unpacked into a process realized by a verb (*spreminjati se*), and two have been replaced by nominalizations of qualities (*moč, navzkrižje*) which are more or less close to the meaning expressed in the original Italian version. This does not seem to be a very big step towards lesser lexical density, though if we look at the other parts of the sentence, there is another important factor contributing to the lexical density of the original, and that is the use of non-finite verb forms, such as (*per*) *dichiarare, respingere, prese, (di non) rientrare*. Slovene copes with non-finite verb forms about as well as with nominalizations, i.e. their use is fairly limited (cf., for example, Kočijančič Pokorn & Šuštaršič 2001 for a contrastive analysis between English and Slovene), while in Italian they are quite common and in fact the only syntactical option available in certain syntactical environments. Although non-finite verbs are not the object of this study, we cannot avoid mentioning them in connection with the difficulty of translating Italian nominalizations in Slovene: in example (3), on top of the ten nominalizations, there are the four non-finite verb forms mentioned earlier. All the non-finites have been transformed into finites in the target text and together with the unpacking of some of the nominalizations, this has considerably lowered the lexical density of the sentence in Slovene and improved its readability.

Example (4) is even more complex and has a very high lexical density (as defined by Halliday & Martin 1993: 76) of 32. As in the previous example, the problem here is not limited to the translation of nominalizations, but is combined with the problem of translating non-finite verbal structures in Slovene (*di prevedere, a spendere, ad accaparrare*).

- (4) a. L'attenzione degli studiosi si concentra quindi sulla *ELABORAZIONE* di modelli che, a partire da questi *PRESUPPOSTI*, permettano *DI PREVEDERE* i *COMPORAMENTI* degli individui in campi che vanno dalle *SCELTE* dell'elettore a quelle dei candidati, dalla *TENDENZA A SPENDERE* denaro pubblico dei politici detti a quella *AD ACCAPARRARE* risorse dei burocrati, dalla *PARTECIPAZIONE* ad *AZIONI* di *PROTESTA* (cfr. cap. 4) alla *FORMAZIONE* di coalizioni elettorali (cfr. cap. 6).
- b. Pozornost raziskovalcev je zato osredotočena na *OBLIKOVANJE* modelov, ki izhajajo iz teh *PODMEN* in ki omogočajo *PREDVIDEVANJE* *VEDENJA* posameznika na področjih, ki segajo od *ODLOČITEV* volivca do *ODLOČITEV* kandidata, od *TEŽNJE*

izvoljenih politikov po PORABI javnega denarja do TEŽNJE uradništva po PRISVAJANJU VZVODOV, od UDELEŽBE na PROTESTNIH AKCIJAH (primerjaj četrto poglavje) do OBLIKOVANJA volilnih zavezništev (primerjaj šesto poglavje).

Since the translator keeps all of the original nominalized processes as nominalizations and, furthermore, adds new ones by translating infinitives with nominalizations (*prevedere* = *predvidevanje*; *accaparrare* = *prisvajanje*) and also by using repetition instead of substitution with a pronoun (*quelle dei candidati* = *odločitve kandidata*), the number of nominalizations in the Slovene translation is higher than in the original Italian text (9 in Italian, 13 in Slovene). In only one instance did the translator change a nominalization into a different structure: *azioni di protesta* is translated as *PROTESTNE akcije*, the reason being very simple: in the Italian phrase the nominalization *protesta*, introduced by the preposition *di*, has the function of an attribute and as such is translated into Slovene by an adjective.

By rewording some of the nominalizations as verbs in example (4) as shown in (4c), where dependent clauses with finite verbs instead of non-finite verbs and nominalizations are used, a clearer structure and a lexically less dense sentence could have been achieved, again easier to read and understand for a Slovene reader.

- (4) c. *Pozornost raziskovalcev je zato osredotočena na oblikovanje modelov, ki bi na podlagi teh predpostavk omogočili, da se predvidi, kako se bodo obnašali posamezniki ...*

In example (5) below, taken from another political text, the situation is a little different: there are seven nominalizations and only one non-finite verb form (*suddiviso*).⁷ While the non-finite verb has been transformed into a finite form and related dependant clause (*ki je ... razdeljen*), all the nominalizations have been preserved – and indeed it would be almost impossible to unpack them into other structures, both due to the (formal) nature of the context and because of the way some of the nominalizations (*prehod*, *uvedba*, *utrditev*) are used to introduce categories rather than focus on the processes themselves. Here, the lexical density which is obviously still rather high in the translation, doesn't result in an overly awkward or heavy Slovene sentence.

- (5) a. *La RIFLESSIONE si è orientata SULL'EMERGERE graduale di istituzioni democratiche nelle diverse tappe di un PROCESSO di DEMOCRATIZZAZIONE, in genere suddiviso in fasi di TRANSIZIONE, INSTAURAZIONE, CONSOLIDAMENTO.*
b. *RAZMISLEKI so še usmerjali k postopnemu VZPONU demokratičnih institucij na posameznih stopnjah PROCESA DEMOKRATIZACIJE, ki je na splošno razdeljen na PREHOD, UVEDBO in UTRDITEV.*

7 The expression (*sull'*)*emergere* is considered a nominalization since it is a verb form used nominally with the aid of the definite article, although *emergere* is properly a non-finite verb form (infinito). This could be considered a border case between the two categories.

Quite often, the heavy load of nominalizations in the target texts and the subsequent high lexical density appear to be the result of interference, as defined by Toury (1995: 275). Although the overall high presence of nominalization in the Slovene translations is an instance of interference in itself, it is generally difficult if not impossible to determine if a certain nominalization in a given context has been used solely because of the influence of the source text or not. Nevertheless, there are some instances where there is little doubt. In example (6) we see the phrase *opravljati pretvorbo*, a very infrequent combination of words: only four examples were found in the 621 million-word Slovene corpus FidaPLUS,⁸ all coming from the field of computer technology (and thus probably being translations of foreign language texts). This word combination is obviously the result of a word-for-word translation in which the original structure ‘lexically weak verb + nominalization’ is preserved instead of it being converted to a simple verb: a more idiomatic version would perhaps be *spreminja vrste proletarcev* instead of *opravlja pretvorbo vrste proletarcev*.

- (6) a. L'apparato di partito [...] OPERA LA TRASFORMAZIONE di una serie di proletari, più o meno dotati, in funzionari sollevati alle condizioni di vita piccolo-borghese [...].
- b. Strankin aparat [...] OPRAVLJA PRETVORBO VRSTE proletarcev, ki so bolj ali manj nadarjeni, v funkcionarje, ki jih povzdigne na raven malomeščanskih življenjskih razmer [...].

Similarly, in example (7), the phrase *atteggiamento sottomesso* is translated with *držo podrejanja*, which does not occur even once in the FidaPLUS corpus and is clearly an instance of interference.⁹

- (7) a. La cultura politica più propizia per la democrazia sarebbe infatti la cultura civica, che combina un attivismo limitato nel tempo e nel numero delle persone coinvolte con un ATTEGGIAMENTO SOTTOMESSO della maggioranza.
- b. Za demokracijo najugodnejša politična kultura naj bi bila zato civilna kultura, ki prepleta aktivizem, omejen v času in po številu vpletenih ljudi, z DRŽO PODREJANJA večini.

In most of the examples shown above avoiding the (excessive) use of nominalizations would have made the sentences easier to read and understand for a Slovene reader and closer to the unmarked Slovene forms. We have shown examples in which the nominalizations were or could have been substituted by a verb, but this is not the only option a translator has when dealing with an Italian nominalization: the other options are explored below.

8 FidaPLUS is a new, enlarged and improved version of the above mentioned corpus FIDA. The new version became available after most of the present analyses was carried out, so it could not be taken into account.

9 There is an additional problem with this particular example: apart from using a word combination that is far from natural, the translation does not actually convey the meaning of the source text. The last part of the original sentence means that the majority of people have a submissive attitude; the Slovene says that someone – the structure is unclear, probably the people who engage in political activism – has a submissive attitude towards the majority.

7. NON-NOMINAL TRANSLATIONS OF NOMINALIZATIONS

Since at least 20 % of the analyzed source-text nominalizations have not been translated into Slovene with nominalizations, we have looked at the other options used by the translators. The analysis of a rather large sample of source-text sentences (over 14,000 examples) containing nominalizations in ISPAC has shown that apart from verbs, translators have also used adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, pronouns, or even nothing in the place of an Italian nominalization (see Table 3 for a list of options and examples of each possibility).

Type of translation	Italian example	Slovene translation
Verb	... perché la società in continua TRASFORMAZIONE e il sorgere di nuovi problemi politici kajti družba, ki se brez prestanka SPREMINJA, in nastajanje novih političnih problemov ...
Adjective	... allora perché nell'Orto degli Ulivi pronuncia PAROLE DI DISPERSIONE e sulla croce si lamenta?	... zakaj je pa potem na Getsemanskem vrtu izgovarjal TAKO OBUPANE BESEDE in stokal na križu?
Omission (with meaning loss)	... vide nella creazione di un sistema di istruzione superiore uno dei mezzi necessari ALLA REALIZZAZIONE DELL'UNITÀ NAZIONALE je bila vzpostavitev sistema visokega šolstva eno od sredstev, ki so nujna ZA NACIONALNO ENOTNOST ...
(without meaning loss)	In un tema scolastico, per il quale aveva ottenuto UN GIUDIZIO LUSINGHIERO, aveva scritto: ...	V šolskem spisu je nekoč napisala: ...
Adverb	... vide un vecchio prete che emetteva SINGULTI DI DISPERSIONE, o meglio, squittii di come di bestia ferita; zagledal starega duhovnika, ki JE OBUPANO IHTEL oziroma cvilil kakor ranjena žival; ...
Preposition	... non me la imposi certo IN CAMBIO DI SOLDI.	... se zagotovo nisem podala ZARADI NJEGA.
Pronoun	... tutte OPERAZIONI DIFFICOLTOSE nel buio della notte e nel tumulto di un attacco...	... kar je v nočni temi in v trušču napada VSE DOKAJ TEŽAVNO...

Table 3: Slovene translations of Italian nominalizations as found in the ISPAC corpus

Apart from the most obvious (and most common) translation of a nominalization by a nominalization, the most frequently used other possibility in the ISPAC corpus is translation by a verb (8 %); Figure 1 shows the proportions of all options in percentage terms.

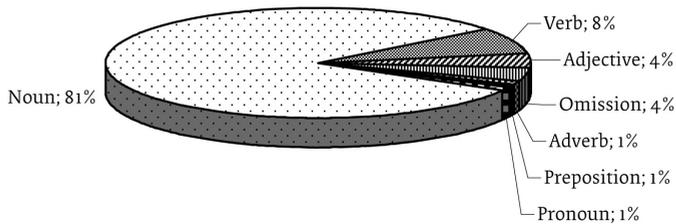


Figure 1: Relative frequency of different translation equivalents for Italian nominalizations in the ISPAC corpus

Had these other possibilities (mostly verbal wordings) been used more frequently, the translations would have been closer to Slovene textual preferences and would have had lesser lexical density.

8. CONCLUSIONS

According to the data emerged in the analyses presented above, there is a significant difference in the use of nominalization in Slovene and Italian, especially regarding its frequency and the resulting lexical density of the clause. The analysis of a Slovene corpus (FIDA) and an Italian corpus (*La Repubblica*) has shown that original Slovene texts seem to prefer congruent structures, while original Italian texts display a greater orientation towards wordings realizing grammatical metaphor.

The same tendency is evident from the analysis of the Italian-Slovene parallel corpus ISPAC, which also offers some insight into the types of translations of Italian nominalizations other than the straightforward ones with Slovene nominalizations. The use of verbal translations in particular, which is the most frequent among these other possibilities, also contributes to the acceptability of the target text.

Furthermore, the analysis based on the ISPAC corpus has shown that there is a considerable difference regarding the frequency of nominalization in different text types: non-literary texts contain over three times more nominalizations than literary texts, which is not surprising, considering the historical evolution of nominalization briefly discussed above.

In conclusion, we would like to stress the importance of corpus research, and research on parallel corpora in particular, for Translation Studies, as it gives the possibility to study a given phenomenon in its context, with virtually countless examples (especially for frequently occurring elements) of real-life solutions to a given translation problem. This can prove very useful in the translation classroom as well, allowing the teacher and the student firstly to identify the problem and its causes, and then to look for other possible translations, i.e. translations of nominalizations with other, often more natural structures.

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