Abstract

This BA thesis aims to describe the differences between the Czech and English subject through the prism of Google Translate and the divergent strategies used by it to translate the subject from Czech to English. GT output is then compared to strategies used by a human translator.

The theoretical part describes the history and methods of machine translation, strategies generally employed by human translators and finally, compares the form and function of the Czech and English subject. Special emphasis is put on the translation of Czech subjectless sentences and on the way the information structure influences the word-order in the languages.

In the analytical part, 100 cases of non-corresponding translation of the subject by GT are excerpted and judged on the accuracy of the solution. They are then compared to the strategies used by the human translator.

It was found that the most frequent non-corresponding translation strategy was in fact condensation (32%), which was not included in the initial hypothesis. In addition to condensation, construing a different clause element as the English object was the second most common (26% of excerpts, the majority of which was formed by construing Czech object as English subject.) In regard to human translation strategies, GT used the same strategy as a human translator in 37% of the cases. In 30% of the cases, human translator preserved the syntactic structure of the source text instead. The human translation used a completely different strategy in 32% of the cases. The main difference found between human translations ang GT’s translations was higher level of literal translation in GT and more creative solutions in human translation.

Key words: subject, subject constancy, machine translation, Google translate, syntax, translation strategies