Abstract

This thesis dealt with the English pluperfect in the Czech-English direction of translation. The aim of this thesis was to identify indices/motives leading to the use of the past perfect in the English translation, which could be found in the underlying Czech clauses. 200 examples and their English translational equivalents were analysed.

Intercorp was used for excerption. It is an online parallel corpus tool made and run by *Český národní korpus* (*Czech National Corpus*). After the examples were excerpted, the complete parts of the Czech texts (used for excerption) were analysed. I tried to assess the constructions that should be translated by the past perfect myself. This should help to identify the Czech indices/motives leading to the use of the pluperfect in the English translation. My accuraccy in assessing the Czech constructions translated by the pluperfect was 38.5% (I managed to identify 77 out 200 examples found in the corpus).

The examples found in the corpus were later classified according to the supposed reason for the use of the past perfect in the English translation, found in the Czech original. The groups were as follows: An adverbial or another lexical device contributing to specification of temporal relations (72 examples, 36%), Hypothetical past meaning (11 examples, 5.5%), Resultative past as a part of the meaning of the lexical verb (15 examples, 7.5%), Context/presupposition – the reason for the use of the pluperfect cannot be found in the sentence itself, but lies in the previous context (27 examples, 13.5%), Syntactic reasons – nominal content clauses and dependent adnominal clauses (53 examples, 26.5%) and Translator's change – the translator decided to change the structure, which led to the use of the pluperfect (22 examples, 11%).

The most numerous group was An adverbial or another lexical device contributing to specification of temporal relations, followed by Syntactic reasons. Nevertheless, statistics was not the most important part of the analysis. The main aim of the thesis was to identify the supposed reasons for the Czech constructions being translated by the English pluperfect. Towards the end of this thesis also the

most frequent verbs (within the excerption) were given, which were *be* (13 times, 6.5%), *live* and *go* (six times each, i.e. 3% of the total of 200 examples). Sentence correlation was also examined and it was about 90% (main clauses were mostly translated with main clauses, dependent clauses with dependent clauses etc.). It means that syntactic constancy was quite high. The source languague's effect on the languague of translation was also dealt with. Generally, it seems that the constructions from the source languague tend to be copied into the translation.