

PARTICIPANTS ‘VOCÊ’ AND ‘YOU’ IN TRANSLATION

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Abstract: This paper analyses participants ‘você’ and ‘you’ in the short story ‘Days of wine and roses’ (‘Dias de vinho e rosas’), originally written in Brazilian Portuguese by Silviano Santiago, and its translation into English by a student translator. It aims to investigate some features of the linguistic systems involved from the perspective of the experiential component of the ideational metafunction (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). The participants were annotated and their tags were used on AntConc to obtain data quantification. Results show that these participants are realised in five types of ideational clauses, being the material, mental, and verbal clauses the more frequent ones. It is concluded that these participants are realised more often functioning as Logical Subjects with respect to the various ideational meanings, which points to their configuration as doers of action.

Keywords: Discourse approaches to translation. Ideational metafunction. Short stories.

Resumo: Este artigo trata da análise dos participantes ‘você’ e ‘you’ no conto ‘Days of wine and roses’ (‘Dias de vinho e rosas’), originalmente escrito em português do Brasil por Silviano Santiago, e na sua tradução para o inglês feita por uma tradutora em formação. Considera-se o componente experiencial da metafunção ideacional (HALLIDAY e MATTHIESSEN, 2004) com o objetivo de investigar alguns traços dos sistemas linguísticos envolvidos sob o viés desta metafunção. Os

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participantes foram anotados e seus rótulos foram usados no programa *AntConc* a fim de obter a quantificação dos dados. Os resultados mostram que estes participantes realizam-se em cinco tipos de orações ideacionais, sendo as orações materiais, mentais e verbais as mais frequentes. Conclui-se que estes participantes realizam-se com mais frequência na função de Sujeitos Lógicos em relação aos vários significados ideacionais, o que aponta para sua configuração como fatores da ação.

Palavras-chave: Abordagens discursivas aos estudos da tradução. Metafunção ideacional. Contos.

Introduction

Representing adequately Figures and logic relations in translated texts is a prerequisite for them to be considered good translations (Halliday, 2001). Although participants ‘você’ and ‘you’ seem to be investigated more frequently by using interpersonal categories resources, this paper analyses these participants from the perspective of the ideational metafunction, aiming mainly to show some characteristics of the linguistic systems involved. As such, this paper can contribute to the description of these participants by taking into account a bilingual literary parallel corpus.

The questions pertinent to the investigation herein are as follows: How are these participants realised in the corpus in terms of the experiential component of ideational metafunction? How variable are the realisations of these participants?

The answers to these research questions lead to the conclusion that participants ‘você’ and ‘you’ may manifest a variety of types of participant that play different roles with respect to their realisation in the transitivity system. Furthermore, as this paper deals with two participants in translation, the major theoretical basis refers to discourse approaches to translation (Munday, 2012; Rodrigues-Júnior, 2006), whose foundation has been closely related to the use of Systemic Function Linguistics in investigations of translated texts by scholars since the late seventies. This entails that source texts and target texts pertain to a system network in which they are realised

in context and instantiated through registers. Consequently, they establish a close relationship with culture through the languages in which they are textualised, corresponding to various cultural impacts on the process of translation.

Theoretical framework

Discourse approaches to translation

Discourse approaches to translation mainly resort to Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (Munday, 2012; Rodrigues-Júnior, 2006). One of its main assumptions is to consider meaning as choice (Halliday, 1992), and choice is related to any user of language, but especially to translators, whose activity demands language pragmatic selection along the whole translation process. This language pragmatic selection is quite thoroughly achieved when the translator can identify and translate appropriately the textual, interpersonal and ideational realisations of texts in translation. As mentioned previously, according to Halliday (2001), the accurate translation of ideational realisations from the source text into the target text is the most relevant one. They account for the modelling of internal and external world experiences, and if they are not well designed in texts, the latter will 'fail' in terms of representation, which is considered more serious than if they 'fail' in terms of textual and interpersonal traits.

When it comes to the investigation of the ideational and interpersonal metafunctions of texts in translation, Hatim and Mason (as cited in Munday, 2012) focus on transitivity and modality to understand the ideological processes within the scope of translation studies. Drawing on the semiotic dimensions of these texts, Hatim and Mason (as cited in Munday, 2012) observe different representations brought about by transitivity shifts and interpretation flaws resulting from modality shifts. To corroborate these observations, Hatim and Mason (as cited in Munday, 2012), on the one hand, believe that it is necessary to investigate more profoundly the reception of

translations in their target culture. On the other hand, they propose the identification of ‘dynamic’ and ‘stable’ features in source texts, which can be a useful strategy for translators.

According to Hatim and Mason (as cited in Munday, 2012), whenever an excerpt of the source text is more dynamic, the translator will feel challenged and will be able to achieve a sense-for-sense translation. Conversely, whenever a passage of the source text is more stable, the translator will feel trapped and will tend to produce a word-for-word translation in the authors’ terms. According to Hatim and Mason (1997), instances of dynamism can be more commonly found in literary texts, whereas instances of stability can be found in legal ones, which are deemed to be detached contextually.

Textual metafunction is approached by Baker (2011) from the structural and semantic perspectives. Baker advises that an individual theme choice is not relevant for communication aims. However, when a translator considers the mapping out of theme choices in the source text, he or she will be able to render them accordingly in the target text by taking into consideration the cultural linguistic particularities of the latter. Baker (2011) also analyses cohesion in texts in translation, and points out the importance of identifying cohesive ties for translating a source text to convey semantic content appropriately into the target text. These textual aspects lead to a higher level of equivalence among texts in translation, namely, pragmatics (Baker, 2011). Broadly speaking, translators shall concern themselves with the appropriateness of target texts and their purpose of message and information. These concerns meet some of Grice’s maxims, but Baker (2011) acknowledges that frequently they may not be applicable for every cultural linguistic context.

Systemic functional linguistics

Halliday’s theory has fundamentally been based on Firth’s, Malinowski’s and Whorf’s assumptions on language and culture.

Drawing on Firth, Halliday has broadened the categories of context of situation and system. From Malinowski's cultural considerations, Halliday has borrowed the definition of meaning as function in context as well as the multifunctionality of texts. And resorting to Whorf's cultural theory, Halliday has made use of the relation between language and culture through the incorporation of the former as a conceptual system that needs to be described through relevant linguistic categories. (Kress, 1976)

Structure, or syntagmatic order, presents rank as its ordering principle, which can be defined as layers with domains, such as in sound, writing, verse, and grammar. Its corresponding orders in grammar relates to morpheme, word, group or phrase, and clause. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004) It seems that syntagmatic order 'obeys' a syntactic organisation of the mentioned orders in a rather crystallised way. Thus, they are not as 'flexible' as paradigmatic instances, as can be seen next.

System, or paradigmatic order, displays delicacy as its ordering principle, which can be analysed through orders – to be precise, grammar and lexis – in linguistic relations of going *instead* of what. By contrast, structure establishes linguistic relations of going *together* with what. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004, italics mine) According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, 23), 'a language is a resource for making meaning, and meaning resides in systemic patterns of choice'. Furthermore, these systemic patterns of choice lead to the elaboration of the structure, and structural operating processes are a means of realising systemic choices. Realisation is the principle 'governed' by the third dimension, namely, stratification. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004) Thus, linguistic choices pertaining to the paradigmatic axis are realised through their syntagmatic organisation within the clause, according to Rodrigues-Júnior (2006).

Stratification manifests realisation as its ordering principle, which can be investigated through orders, that is to say, phonetics, phonology, lexicogrammar, and semantics. These orders can be understood as strata whose components move from an expression

plane to a content plane to be realised in context. This relationship among the strata is then called realisation. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004) Also, semantics is considered to be realised through lexicogrammar which, in turn, is realised through phonology. Empirically speaking, the relationship between lexicogrammar and phonology is deemed to be arbitrary, and the relationship between lexicogrammar and semantics is regarded as natural (Halliday & Matthiessen, 1999).

Instantiation reveals instance, sub-potential or instance type, and potential as orders instantiated in the form of text. One can move along the cline, whereby overall potential and particular instance are involved, from the text pole to the system pole, when one investigates text types, for instance. Also, these text types can be interpreted as registers, which can instantiate the overall system associated with a specific context. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004) The ordering principles delicacy and instantiation are closely related in that the former draws an analogy with types and the latter makes an analogy with tokens (Halliday & Matthiessen, 1999). Then, taking into account these two ordering principles, one can perceive the intrinsic relationship between grammar and lexis, whose use can be more or less general.

Metafunction is a linguistic concept that entails organisation of messages, interpretation of experiences, and expression of social relationships. Thus, it can be textual, ideational, and interpersonal, respectively. It is worth mentioning that these three metafunctions occur concomitantly in language realisations and instantiations. They are analysed separately in order to extract illuminating linguistic phenomena from the system. (Halliday, 1994) According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, 31), 'systems at every rank are located in their metafunctional context', to be precise, each system addresses itself to some part of a rank matrix, namely, metafunction. There are alternative ways of approaching the metafunctions, such as those proposed by Martin and Rose (2003).

Ideational metafunction

Ideational metafunction accounts for the representation of speakers' internal and external world by experiential and logical means. In realisation terms, it renders Figure, which is a configuration of a Process, its Participants, and any accompanying Circumstances. The types of Process are realised in a representative cultural linguistic network responsible for construing experiences. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004)

According to Halliday and Matthiessen, there are six types of Processes – namely, Material, Mental, Relational, Behavioural, Verbal, and Existential. In English, the first three Processes are the prototypical ones. As regards assumptions of Systemic Functional Linguistics, an analysis can focus on the verbal group (transience) or on the nominal group (permanence). As previously stated, this investigation is related to the latter one by drawing on the system of clause that affects Figure, namely, transitivity. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004)

Halliday and Matthiessen (1999) investigate the ideational base in order to understand the elaboration of ideational semantics. According to these authors, lexis realises linguistic phenomena when moving towards the more delicate part of the ideation base. Thus, language representation can be hybrid and can span more than one semiotic mode (Halliday & Matthiessen, 1999).

Many investigations on ideational metafunction make use of a single language or of linguistic pairs. An example of investigation on ideational metafunction using the English-Portuguese linguistic pair is by Assis (2004), who analyses how the protagonist Sethe is construed ideationally in a bilingual literary parallel corpus comprising the novel *Beloved* by Toni Morrison (1998) and its translation into Brazilian Portuguese by Evelyn Kay Massaro (Morrison, 1987). The researcher points out that the elaboration of this character on a distributional level when it comes to types of Process is not very distinct between the two texts. Nevertheless, by observing the occurrences in detail, Sethe's representation in the

target text turns out to be differentiated from the one in the source text. According to Assis, such differentiation is perceived through a detailed observation of the translational choices.

An example of investigation on ideational metafunction using a single language was carried out by Farencena and Fuzer (2010). These authors investigate the representation of the characters Wolf and Lamb taken out from 'The Wolf and the Lamb', by Aesop (1995), in a translation in Brazilian Portuguese, and in a rewriting, also in Brazilian Portuguese, by Millôr Fernandes (2007). The participants were identified and the Processes related to them classified for later categorisation of the participants. The authors conclude that Wolf and Lamb in Fernandes' rewriting are represented as Goals to the extent that the narrator represents the character Wolf in Behavioural and Verbal clauses as being inferior to Lamb. In contrast, the character Wolf is represented as being unfair to Lamb in Aesop's fable, even if the narrator's representations of Wolf and Lamb are also diversified (Farencena & Fuzer, 2010).

Participants 'você' and 'you'

Dealing with functions of language proposed by Jakobson (1980), Miller (2004) enhances the use of the imperative, vocative, and second person pronoun 'you' when Conative Function, which relates to the fact that the clause acts as an exchange of goods and services, is realised.

According to Brown and Yule (as cited in Toledo-Pereira, 2005), many interactions tend to position personal pronouns, such as 'eu' ('I') and 'você' ('you'), to emphasise their conversational character at first glance and to signal one of the aims whereby the interactant makes use of language.

Hyland (as cited in Rasti, 2011) states that the interactant pronoun 'you' can be used generically as an engagement marker that creates a dialogic interaction between the participants. Hyland

also considers that this personal pronoun generally realises more explicitly the reader's presence in the text. According to Kitagawa and Lehrer (as cited in Rasti, 2011), the use of 'you' with impersonal meaning brings about a type of camaraderie, since the speaker makes the hearer come into his or her world view. Through the realisation of 'you', Kim (as cited in Rasti, 2011) defends that the reader can identify with the writer's textual persona, which in turn intensifies his or her involvement and the persuasion power of the text. Rasti (2011) points to two main instances of realisation of 'you': restricted 'you' and generic 'you'. According to this author, the former is more frequent in interrogative and imperative clauses, whereas the latter occurs more often in declarative clauses.

In a related comment on President Barack Obama's 2009 inauguration speech, Munday (2012) emphasises that the translation of participant 'you' shall be careful, because it depends on the addressee of the message as well as on how formal the event is and on which status it conveys.

Methodology

The short story 'Days of wine and roses' (*Dias de vinho e rosas*) presents features of a conversation between a gay couple, one of whose partners hardly ever interacts, which is perceived by the excessive realisation of personal pronoun 'você' ('you'), as well as by that partner's presence in few dialogues in which 'você' ('you') can be indicative of a rather real and sometimes presumed face-to-face interaction. It was originally written in Brazilian Portuguese (Santiago, 2000), and it was translated into English by a student translator (Santiago, 2011). The short story and its translation constitute a bilingual literary parallel corpus (Baker, 1995). The former was digitalised and the latter was produced by using a text editor of Windows platform.

The methodological resources rely on Corpus Linguistics considered herein as a method. This case study presents a corpus-

based approach. It draws on corpus annotation (Hunston, 2002) of ideational metafunctional categories to investigate the impact of the widespread use of participants ‘você’ and ‘you’ in the corpus. As already mentioned, the main objective of this paper is to show some features of the linguistic systems involved with a view to contributing to the description of these participants.

The categories and their respective tags based on Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) are presented below.

Material clauses:

< Actor > < Elliptical Actor > < Goal >

Mental clauses:

< Senser > < Elliptical Senser > < Phenomenon >

Attributive relational clauses:

< Carrier > < Elliptical Carrier > < Attribute >

Identifying relational clauses:

< Identifier > < Elliptical Identifier > < Identified > < Elliptical Identified >
< Token > < Elliptical Token > < Value > < Elliptical Value >

Behavioural clauses:

< Behaver > < Elliptical Behaver > < Behaviour >

Verbal clauses:

< Sayer > < Elliptical Sayer > < Receptor >

Existential clauses:

< Existent >

As can be seen, the elliptical participants play a Subject role. More specifically, in this paper they function as Logical Subjects, since they constitute the doers of action by keeping relations between Things (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

As regards data quantification, participants ‘você’ and ‘you’ were annotated with the mentioned categories and tags in DOC files that were later converted into TXT files. This procedure enabled me to quantify the tags on AntConc freeware software. Next, I included each tag, one by one, in the software concordance device, which showed the quantification of the categories as well as the context and co-text related to participants ‘você’ and ‘you’. I noted manually in a table the number of occurrences of the participants. Finally, I proceeded to initial data analysis that can be fully verified in the next section of this paper.

Results

The results rely on the theoretical framework exposed and on the methodology adopted. Let us then observe Table 1.

Table 1

Participants ‘você’ and ‘you’ in material, mental and attributive relational clauses

Types of participant	Source text (‘você’)	Target text (‘you’)
Actor	40	59
Goal	3	4
Senser	41	57
Phenomenon	1	4
Carrier	9	13
Attribute	-	1

Table 1 shows that ‘you’ is realised more frequently than ‘você’ in material, mental, and attributive relational clauses. It means that ‘you’ tends more to be expressed, whereas ‘você’ tends more to be elided. Actor is the most recurrent participant in the set of participants, which may be a sign of a sequence of doing-&-happening events assigned to the gay couple. Interestingly, the participants play role of a Logic Subject more often than that of an

Object. This indicates that these participants are more salient when they are the doers of action.

Example 1:

Source text:

‘Você <Carrier> não está contente com as imagens do cotidiano na tela da televisão.’

Target text:

‘You <Carrier> are not happy with the daily images on the television screen.’

In Hatim and Mason’s terms, these examples from the source and target texts are ‘stable’ from the perspective of participants ‘*você*’ and ‘you’, since both realise Carriers, which points to identical representations of these participants in these instances of attributive relational clauses.

Example 2:

Source text:

“*Existe alguma coisa de mais universal do que ser provinciano em Nova York?*”, *continua ele, só para TE deixar perturbado.*” (Italics mine)

Target text:

“‘Is there something more universal than being provincial in New York?’, continues he, only to make YOU <Attribute> disturbed.” (Italics mine)

The only occurrence of Attribute in the corpus is showed in the target text excerpt. The Portuguese language presents a wider range of pronouns if compared to the English language. Thus, the pronoun ‘*te*’, which realises Objects, has been rendered into the pronoun ‘you’, bringing about the realisation of an Attribute. It is worth mentioning that one shall consider the rank shift in ‘only to make you disturbed’, which can have an agnate form such as ‘only to make you feel disturbed’. This minor clause realises the nominal

group ‘you’ and the verbal group ‘feel disturbed’, considering that the agnation can be interpreted as a clause, which makes clearer the realization of ‘you’ as an Attribute. The fact that the pronoun ‘*te*’ was not taken into account in the corpus annotation has an impact on data quantification whenever it was translated as the pronoun ‘you’.

Table 2

Participants ‘você’ and ‘you’ in identifying relational clauses

Types of participant	Source text (‘você’)	Target text (‘you’)
Identifier	5	5
Identified	6	12
Token	7	13
Value	4	4

Table 2 shows that ‘you’ is realised more often than ‘*você*’ as Identified and as Token. It also shows that their occurrences are identical as Identifier and as Value. These findings point to the fact that in relational clauses, these participants are more often ‘characterised’ through the broadening of the identifying linguistic resources (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). Furthermore, these participants functioning as Identified serve more repeatedly as a means of focusing more frequently on what is told about the gay couple.

Example 3:

Source text:

‘*Não há razões para você <Actor> viver onde <Elliptical Actor> está morando.*’

Target text:

‘There are no reasons for you <Identified> <Token> to be where you <Actor> are living.’

In the source and target texts, participants ‘*você*’ and ‘you’ can be regarded as being ‘generic’ according to Rasti (2011), since they are realised in declarative clauses. The Actor in the source

text is textualised into Identified and Token in the target text. They are realised in minor clauses that can have corresponding agnate forms, as already mentioned. The impact of such a translation shift lies in the fact that the representation has been changed from a material meaning into an identifying relational meaning, which establishes a relationship of identification and characterisation of participant ‘you’ not found in the source text.

Table 3

Participants ‘você’ and ‘you’ in behavioural and verbal clauses

Types of participant	Source text (‘você’)	Target text (‘you’)
Behaver	6	9
Behaviour	-	1
Sayer	25	32
Receiver	3	5
Existent	-	-

Table 3 shows the high frequency of Sayers in the function of Logical Subjects by contributing to the production of utterances derived in part from the verbal representations of participants ‘você’ and ‘you’. Receivers are far less recurrent, which indicates that participants ‘você’ and ‘you’ do not play the role of representing the interactants as Objects in terms of verbal clauses. When it comes to behavioural clauses, these participants are more frequent functioning as Logical Subjects than as Objects, which points to behavioural meanings being conducted through doers of action.

Example 4:

Source text:

‘*Você <Behaver> já não ouve as diferentes vozes que falam para você <Receiver>, TE olhando fixamente nos olhos, informando-O do estado do mundo nesse dia.*’ (Italics mine)

Target text:

‘You <Behaver> don’t listen to the different voices that talk to you <Receiver> anymore, staring at YOU <Behaviour> ,

informing YOU <Receiver> the condition of the world on this day.’ (Italics mine)

Another instance of object pronoun other than ‘te’ is ‘o’ in the Portuguese language. Both have been translated as participant ‘you’ in the target text. This is attributable to the particular manner whereby each linguistic system makes delicate the realisation of these pronouns. Furthermore, Behaviour only occurs once, which points to the delicacy of this foregrounding participant.

Table 4

Participants ‘você’ and ‘you’ in elliptical material, mental, attributive relational, behavioural and verbal clauses

Types of participant	Source text (‘você’)	Target text (‘you’)
Elliptical Actor	23	9
Elliptical Senser	16	9
Elliptical Carrier	2	-
Elliptical Behavior	4	-
Elliptical Sayer	12	1

Table 4 shows that the ellipsis of Logical Subject is realised more frequently in material, mental, and verbal clauses. Furthermore, this ellipsis is more frequent in the source text, for Portuguese is a pro-drop language, which means that in Portuguese the Subject tends to be far more elided than it is in English. As already mentioned, material and mental Processes are prototypical in English. In the corpus, this prototypical linguistic characteristic is partially corroborated in elliptical terms.

Example 5:

Source text:

‘*TE dou outro exemplo, <Elliptical Senser> quer?*’ (Italics mine)

Target text:

‘I’ll give YOU <Goal> another example, do you <Senser> want it?’ (Italics mine)

The matter of how elliptical the Portuguese and English languages are is raised again in these examples. Participant ‘*você*’ is elided in the source text, whereas it is translated as participant ‘you’ in the target text. Both are Sensers realising mental meaning. However, the fact that elliptical occurrences were labelled separately also has an impact on data quantification and on the manner the linguist opts to investigate linguistic phenomena.

Table 5

Participants ‘você’ and ‘you’ in elliptical identifying relational clauses

Types of participant	Source text (‘você’)	Target text (‘you’)
Elliptical Identifier	2	-
Elliptical Identified	6	1
Elliptical Token	7	1
Elliptical Value	1	-

Table 5 shows that elliptical relational participants in the source text are far more often elided from the perspective of identifying relational clauses if compared to the target text. This is due to the linguistic systems involved, as previously discussed. Nevertheless, it is also a linguistic trait of the Portuguese language that indicates a tendency to elide identifying relational participants more often, as exemplified in this case study.

Example 6:

Source text:

<Elliptical Identified> <Elliptical Token> *‘Fora amante dele.
<Elliptical Identified> <Elliptical Token> Não do tipo carrapato,
rola rolando dia e noite na mesma cama e sob o mesmo teto.’*

Target text:

‘You <Identified> <Token> had been his lover. <Elliptical Identified> <Elliptical Token> Not the tick style, jamming night and day in the same bed and under the same roof.’

Kim (as cited in Rasti, 2011) points out how the realisation of participant ‘you’ can establish the reader’s identification with the writer’s textual persona, which can make the text more persuasive. These examples from the source and target texts show the narrator’s point of view. The use of identifying relational clauses to realise some elliptical participants, more frequently found in the source text, may point to the persuasion power of the two short stories. Thus, a combination of identifying relational meanings with elliptical realisations of the personal pronouns may lead to distinct literary expressions.

Conclusions

This paper showed that participants ‘*você*’ and ‘you’ are more frequently realised through material, mental, and verbal clauses functioning as Logical Subjects in the corpus. This accounts for how the short stories are structured from the perspective of the experiential component of the ideational metafunction. It can also point to the literary meanings developed in the narratives, since ‘*você*’ and ‘you’ are key participants in the texts due to their widespread use in the corpus.

Furthermore, these participants are also realised through relational and behavioural clauses, which indicates the diversification of experiential realisations in the short stories. However, there are no occurrences of existential clauses when it comes to the realisation of participants ‘*você*’ and ‘you’. This may be due to some linguistic ‘constraints’ of the languages involved as regards these participants.

The consideration of the ellipsis of subject in the corpus annotation had an impact on data. It corroborated previous studies that characterise Portuguese as being a pro-drop language to a higher degree than is English. Also, Portuguese object pronouns ‘*te*’ and ‘*o*’ should have been annotated, as they are agnate forms of ‘*você*’. Such annotation could have contributed

to the investigation of delicacy of these pronouns functioning as Objects. Thus, this is a recommendation for further research that entails the investigation of the relationship of these object pronouns with their rendering into English.

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