

Translating and the Computer - TC44

The use of CAT tools and corpus analysis in comparative literary translation research: an English-Arabic case study



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SDL | Trados
Studio



Censorship: omission and manipulation techniques

► Censorship:

- “a coercive and forceful act that blocks, manipulates and controls cross-cultural interaction in various ways” (Baker and Saldanha (2009: 289)
- “a manipulative rewriting of discourses” (Sherry, 2010: 1)



Children and Youth Literature (CYL)...

“CYL is considered an ideal field for research on issues related to censorship” (Giugliano and Hernández, 2019: 314)

“both the target culture and society may decide what is wrong and what is acceptable for their children” (Leonardi, 2020: 26-27)



Omission as a translation technique

- ▶ Omission: “the elimination or implicitation of part of the text” (Baker and Saldanha, 2009: 4).
 - ▶ solution in cases of non-equivalence or implicit conveyance of meaning (Baker, 2011)
 - ▶ a parameter to detect manipulation and censorship (Klimovich, 2016)
 - ▶ an unintentional error committed by the translator (Melamed, 1996: 764)



Manipulation as a translation technique

- “Manipulation of a text in translation may involve changes of individual lexical items or larger scale alterations such as the restructuring of the text and removal of significant sections which, as Lefevere asserts, often have an ideological motivation and seek to affect the image of the text in the receiving culture” (Sherry, 2010: 3).



Traditional comparative research

Manually comparing and annotating texts....

Time
consuming

Labour-
intensive



ST vs. TT



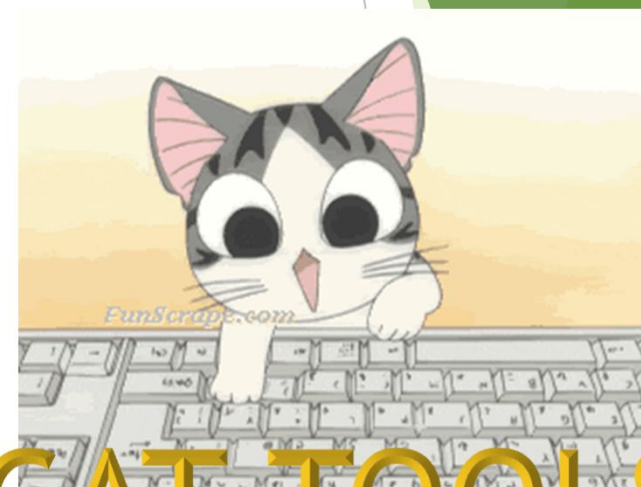
Close reading...



New technologies

LITERATURE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

FROM CLOSE READING TO DISTANT READING



CAT TOOLS

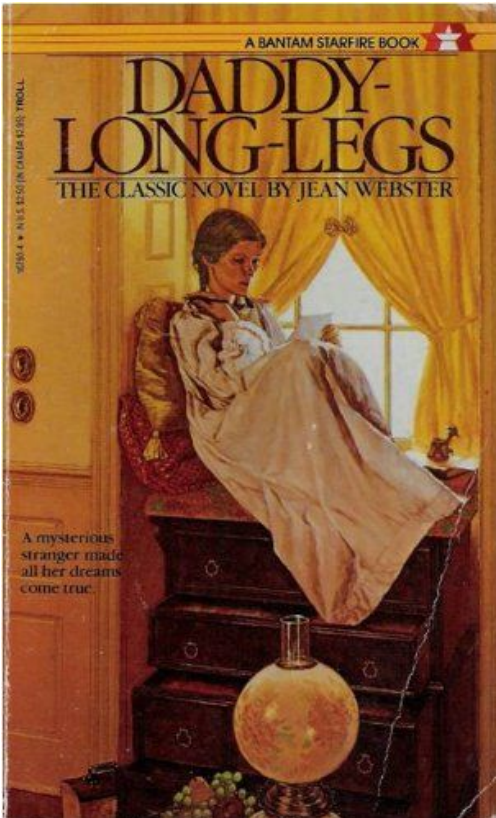


Computer-Assisted Translation Tools and Literary Research

- Translation Memories (TM) make translators benefit as much as possible from previous translations (Mitkov, 2022: 367) 🌻
- CAT tools → Enhance productivity → workflow → TMs

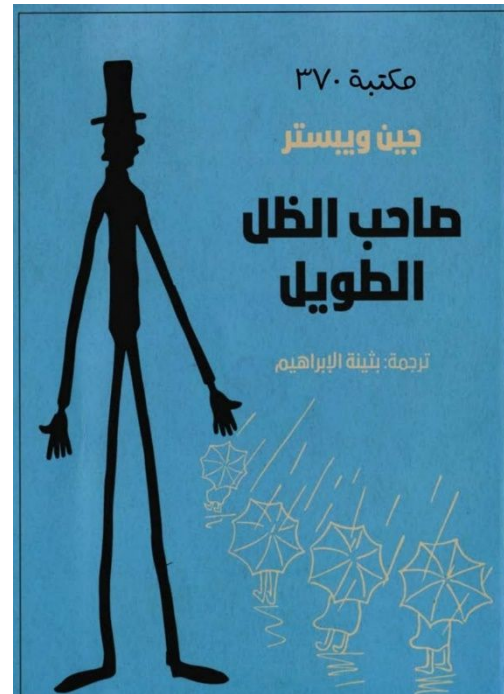


Materials



Materials

- ▶ “أبي طويل الساقين” → Samir Mahfouz Bashir → the National Center for Translation in Egypt in 2009 → T1
- ▶ “صاحب الظل الطويل” → Buthaina Al-Ibrahim → Takween in Kuwait in 2018 → T2



alignment process...

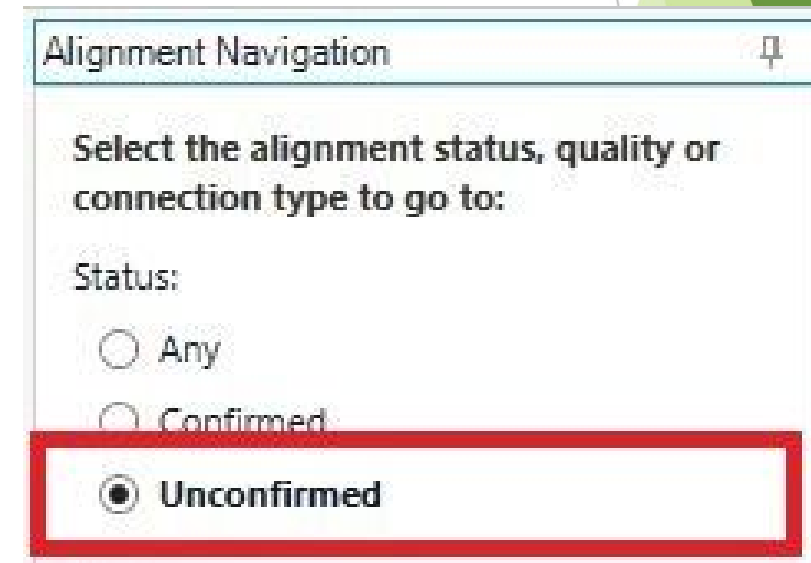
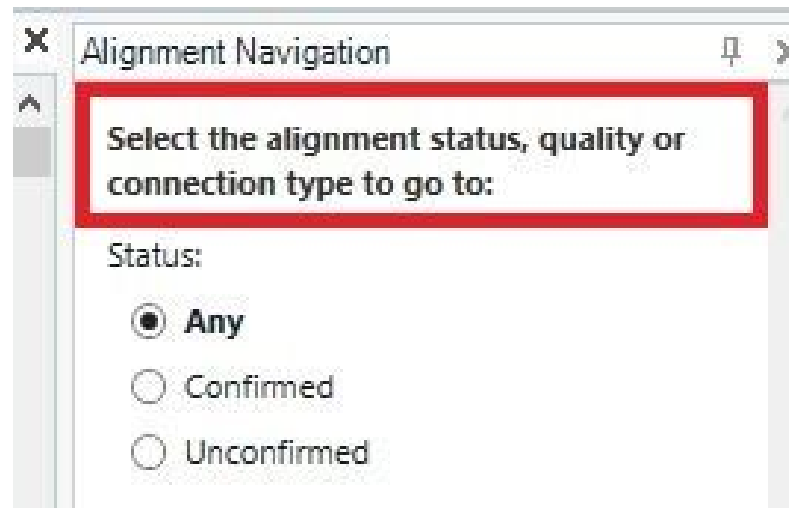
- ▶ Character recognition program I2PDF
- ▶ Text alignment: Trados Studio 2021 → parallel corpus
- ▶ Revised automatic alignment
- ▶ The alignment was applied at phrase and paragraph level
- ▶ The split segment option was used when part of the sentence was omitted so that the unaligned segments would contain only the parts that were totally omitted

English Text	Line	German Text	Line
Neoplasm swelling, Metastatic pain	1	Schwellung des Tumors	1
ANNEX 1	2	Metastasenschmerzen	2
SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS	3	ANHANG I	3
1.	4	ZUSAMMENFASSUNG DER MERKMALE DES ARZNEIMITTELS	4
NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT	5	1.	5
Thyrogen 0.9 mg powder for solution for injection	6	BEZEICHNUNG DES ARZNEIMITTELS	6
2.	7	Thyrogen 0,9 mg Pulver zur Herstellung einer Injektionslösung	7

- ▶ The untranslated segments were left unaligned

Automatic detection of omission

- ▶ Identifying all unaligned segments available in Trados Studio 2021
- ▶ *Select the alignment status, quality or connection type to go to*
- ▶ The unconfirmed segments option was selected



Automatic detection of omission

The screenshot displays the SDL Trados Studio interface. The main window shows a bilingual alignment of English and Arabic text. The English text on the left includes phrases like "escaped!", "I never heard of anybody being asylum-sick, did you?", "10th October", "Dear Daddy-Long-Legs.", "Did you ever hear of Michael Angelo?", "He was a famous artist who lived in Italy in the Middle Ages.", "Everybody in English Literature seemed to know about him, and the whole class laughed because I thought he was an archangel.", "He sounds like an archangel, doesn't he?", "The trouble with college is that you are expected to know such a lot of things you've never learned.", "It's very embarrassing at times.", "But now, when the girls talk about things that I never heard of, I just keep still and look them up in the encyclopedia.", and "I made an awful mistake the first day." The Arabic text on the right is a translation of this content. The interface includes a top menu bar (File, Home, View, Add-Ins, Help), a toolbar with various icons, and a sidebar on the left with navigation options (Welcome, Projects, Editor, Translation Memories, Alignment). On the right, the "Alignment Navigation" panel is open, showing filters for Status (Any, Confirmed, Unconfirmed), Quality (Any, Good, Average, Bad), and Connection (Any, Single, Multiple, Disconnected). The "Unconfirmed" status and "Any" quality are selected. The "Next" button is highlighted with a mouse cursor. At the bottom, a status bar shows the current document is "meet.google.com" and provides options to "Dejar de compartir" or "Ocultar".

English Text	Arabic Text
escaped!	في الإنجليز. "والعقراء أنت دائما معهم."
I never heard of anybody being asylum-sick, did you?	قال إن هذه الكلمات وسعت لكي تفعلها دائما معهم.
10th October	وتسألونني نحن إنونا الفقراء.
Dear Daddy-Long-Legs.	فالفقر - نحن أن نلاحظ ذلك - هو أحد تلك الحيوانات المزعزعة.
Did you ever hear of Michael Angelo?	الألف.
He was a famous artist who lived in Italy in the Middle Ages.	ولو أنني لم أصبح اسمه بهذه الكلمة، كنت ذاهب إلى بعد.
Everybody in English Literature seemed to know about him, and the whole class laughed because I thought he was an archangel.	انتهاء المثلثات الأخيرة رأيي التحققي فيه.
He sounds like an archangel, doesn't he?	25 أكتوبر
The trouble with college is that you	والذي طويل المسافين
are expected to know such a lot of things you've never learned.	إس الآن في فريق كرة القدم.
It's very embarrassing at times.	يجب أن تختار فريق لاعبة الفريق على كتيبي الفريق. هي
But now, when the girls talk about things that I never heard of, I just keep still and look them up	خبط من اللون الأزرق والبرماني والبرماني
in the encyclopedia.	حاولت مولا نزلون، أن تضم للفريق ولكنها لم تخرج.
I made an awful mistake the first day.	أحسنا.

Analysis of results

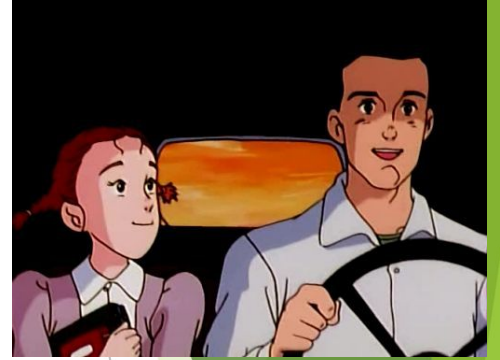
Motive of omission	Frequency
unacceptable social behavior	23
unacceptable moral conduct	22
linguistic reasons	8
religious information	5
ideological references	4
Total	62

Frequency of omission and motive
of omission in **T1**



Examples

- ▶ **Jimmie McBride** is going to teach me how to ride horseback and paddle a canoe, and how to shoot and--oh, lots of things I ought to know. It's the kind of nice, jolly, care-free time that I've never had; and I think every girl deserves it once in her life (p. 51).
- ▶ I didn't know that **people used to be monkeys** and that the **Garden of Eden** was a beautiful myth (p. 14).
- ▶ Oh, you see, I know! You're a **snappy old thing with a temper** (p. 14).
- ▶ I'd hate to ***retourner chez*** John Grier (p. 41)




J' sais pas !





Corpus analysis tool



 **PARALLEL CONCORDANCE**  

BASIC ADVANCED ABOUT

<p>Search </p> <p><input type="text" value="yours"/></p> <p>in</p> <p><input type="text" value="English"/> </p>	<p>Translated as (optional) [?]</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p>in</p> <p><input type="text" value="Arabic"/> </p>
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SEARCH

Corpus analysis tool



Rahbar *et al.* (2013)

① doc#0 <s> Yours most respectfully, Jerusha Abbott </s>	<s/> المخلصة جدا جيروشا ابوت <s>
① doc#0 <s> Yours always, Jerusha Abbott </s>	<s/> المخلصة دائما جيروشا ابوت <s>
① doc#0 <s> Yours , on the way to being educated, Jerusha Abbott </s>	<s/> خادمة كم فى طريق العلم جيروشا ابوت <s>
① doc#0 <s> Yours ever, </s>	<s/> المطيعة دائما <s>
① doc#0 <s> Yours ever, Judy </s>	<s/> المخلصة الى الابد جودى <s>
① doc#0 <s> Yours with love, </s>	<s/> ل ك مع خالص حبي <s>
① doc#0 <s> Yours , about to be examined, </s>	<s/> ل ك و انا على مقربة من ابواب الامتحان <s>
① doc#0 <s> Yours truly, Jerusha Abbott </s>	<s/> المخلصة جيروشا ابوت <s>
① doc#0 <s> Yours with love, Judy Abbott </s>	<s/> ل ك مع حبي جودى ابوت <s>
① doc#0 <s> Yours for ever, </s>	<s/> ل ك الى الابد <s>

Comparison between T1 and T2

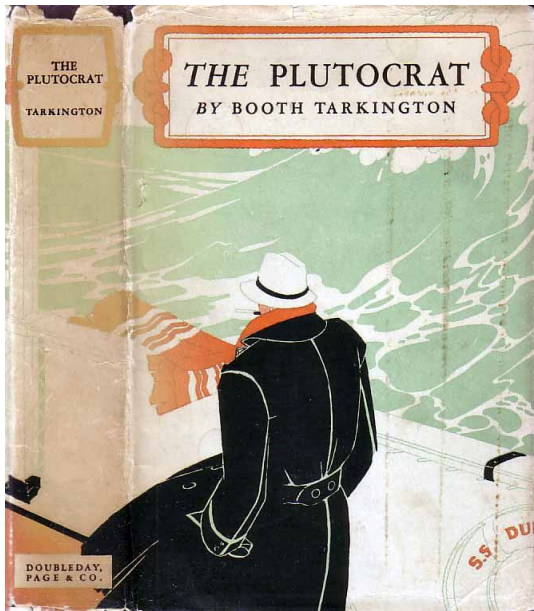
Original text	T1	T2
They are pigs!	-	إنها قذرة! [It's dirty]
anarchists	المحافظين [The conservatives]	الفوضويين [The anarchists]
plutocrat	رأسمالية [Capitalist]	بلوتوقراطية [Plutocracy]
Yours ever	المطبعة دائما almuṭy'a da'iman [The always obedient]	المخلصة لك أبدا almukhliṣa laka abadan [the always faithful]



MANIPULATION

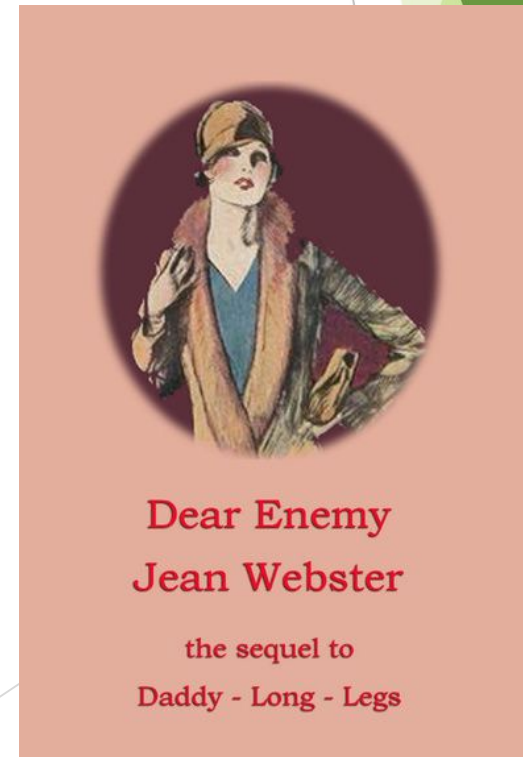
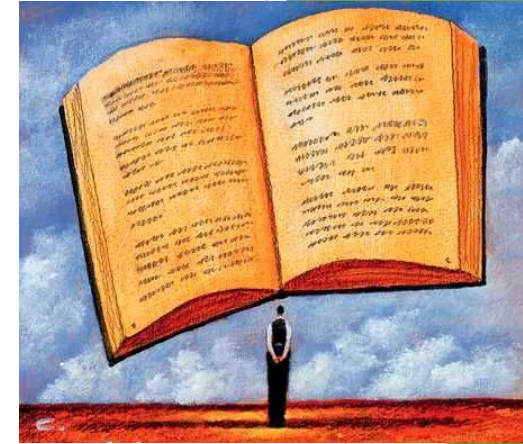
Ideological manipulation

- ▶ “You know, I think I'll be a Socialist, too. You wouldn't mind, would you, Daddy? They're quite different from **Anarchists**; they don't believe in blowing people up”
- ▶ “I'm a Socialist, please remember; do you wish to turn me into a **Plutocrat** ? ”



Conclusions

- ▶ Computer-assisted literary translation (Youdale and Rothwell, 2022: 384)
- ▶ Combine close reading and distant reading
- ▶ CAT tools + Corpus analysis tools
- ▶ CAT tools are far from perfect and suffer a set of shortcomings (Mitkov, 2022) → Design a new tool to facilitate alignment and automatic detection of omission
- ▶ Translation memories: consistency and style



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