UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND
SCHOOL OF LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE STUDIES
TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING STUDIES

TRAN4022: Principles and Practice of Translation

Student number: 397284

GERMAN INTO ENGLISH – GENERAL TRANSLATION

Due date: Friday 12 May 2017

Please note that translation assignments should be:
1) presented professionally, that is, word-processed in double or one and a half spacing, free of typographical errors and submitted by the due date;
2) annotated;
3) accompanied by a reference list of sites, works and dictionaries consulted.

The annotations should discuss, for example, how you researched any problematic concepts or terms; sources of background reading; the problems encountered in the translation process owing to differences between the ST and the TT readerships; and problems encountered owing to differences in the two legal/financial systems.

In addition you should provide any annotations that might be necessary for the target readership.

Brief: Translate for publication in an English language academic journal

Perspectivation[1] and terminological determination[2] of violence[3]: an approach to newer paragigms and concepts[4] (MK/LP 23 Nov 03)

The German word for violence, *Gewalt*, is etymologically derived from the Old High German verb *waltan,* which covers a range of meanings including to be strong, to rule, and to be powerful. This semantic diversity signposts the ambivalent meaning of *Gewalt* in German (Duden Etymologie 1998: 239; 799). In Latin political language, the poles of this semantic range are marked as *potestas* (power and command relationships) and *violentia* (violence[5]). While languages such as French *(pouvoir/violence)* and English *(power/violence)* conserve this division of terms (Chambers 1988: 1205), a similar lexical separation does not exist in German. Similarly, the German language does not differentiate between *force* (used to impose order) and *violence* (used to cause injury)[6] (Wallmann: 1997: 483; Imbusch 2002: 28f.).

The Western sociology of violence often reduces violence to *physical violence*, in the sense of causing bodily injury, and, less often, resulting material damage (violence against things) (von Trotha 1997; Heitmeyer/Hagan 2002a). Implicitly, any negotiation of 'violence' raises the question of the legitimacy or illegitimacy of the action thus designated. When acts,

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[1] "Perspektivierungen" is a nominalised verb derived from the word "Perspektive" (perspective). It is not a word in common usage in German, and the calque "perspectivation" is not recognised by the online version of the Merriam-Webster dictionary. However, a Google search for "perspectivation" returns a respectable 35,700 results. Many of the search results appear to refer to publications and citations by northern European (German and Danish) researchers. A user-created free dictionary, Wiktionary, defines the term as "the assignment of a particular perspective to a narrative through the use of language". Based on this information, I would identify this term as one that belongs to a specialised field of discourse and that is in the process of being adopted into English. I am using the calque (rather than the word "perspective") in this context as it appears to be appropriate for the field of research, but would check with the client to see if they could add any information on whether the term is used in English-language sociology.

[2] "Begriffsbestimmungen" could be translated, a little loosely, as "definitions". However, given that this is an academic article on the terminology of "Gewalt", I chose the more specific translation "terminological determination".

[3] If this were a real-life translation rather than an exercise, I would propose to the client that the entire first paragraph be moved into a footnote (linked to the word "violence" in the heading). The reason is that this introduction to the German etymology of the word "Gewalt" is really only relevant for German readers who need to know that other languages have separate words for the separate meanings of "Gewalt". For English readers, force, violence, and power are already separate concepts.

[4] "Begrifflichkeiten" is related to "Begriff", meaning term or expression, but has a broader meaning that includes both the term and its meaning. The LEO online dictionary suggests "concept" or "abstract concept" as the translation.

[5] "Gewaltsamkeit" is an uncommon term. The two suffixes are –sam, indicating an adjective formed from the noun "Gewalt", resulting in a meaning of "of a violent nature". –keit indicates that a noun has been formed from an adjective. Based on the Duden definition, "Gewaltsamkeit" means violent action or behaviour. It appears that little would be gained by translating "Gewaltsamkeit" as violent behaviour, as opposed to simply violence.

[6] I've omitted repeating the German terms used in the source text ("ordnende Gewalt" vs. "verletzende Gewalt") because doing so would be superfluous.

structures or relationships are characterised[7] as violent, this is based on a normative determination[8] of the meaning. It is a political articulation, just as the explicit exclusion of acts, structures or relationships from the understanding of violence would be. Categorising violence as *physical, structural* or *symbolic violence*, as well as further differentiating between *institutional* or *epistemic violence,* represents an attempt to distinguish between different types of violent relationships.[9]

The connection between the problem definition[10] and the term can be illustrated using the expression *structural violence* as an example. The term was proposed in the 1970s[11] by Johan Galtung, a peace researcher, as a name for relationships of violence resulting from societal structures (Galtung 1975). Both in the sociology of violence and in peace and conflict research, the term continues to polarise research on the understanding of violence. Nonetheless, Galtung's broadening of the term 'violence' turned out to be extraordinarily fruitful for the international development debate because it highlighted inequalities in the international system from a theoretical perspective (Jaberg 1999). Similarly, feminism research appeared to find the term useful[12]: it made it possible to express the power relationship in the construction of gender polarity, in addition to power relationships resulting from inequality between the sexes (Krause 2003: 260). Conversely, others have rejected the category of *structural violence* as being too broad (Jaberg 1999, Sauer 2002: 89).

The following review of selected scientific concepts of violence from international and German discourses is intended to illuminate the connection between the problem definition and categorial differentiation. In other words: the objective is to map out the perspective from which violence is defined and described as a problem. This paper firstly aims to analyse whether conceptions of violence expressed in categorial definitions offer a suitable basis[13] for gender research. Keeping in mind that international research into violence is still very much limited to the Western industrialised nations, the second aim of this paper is to examine which categories are suitable for cross-cultural analyses and have been found to be fruitful in international debates.

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[7] "Benennung": literally "naming".

[8] "Normative Setzung": literally, a normative "setting" of meaning, in other words a definition or determination of meaning.

[9] Inserted a paragraph break to improve the structure.

[10] "Problemstellung": problem definition. I'm not clear about what the problem definition is and would ask the client to clarify.

[11] Actually in 1969: see Galtung (1969).

[12] "Anschlussfähig": literally, suitable for making connections.

[13] "Anknüpfungspunkte": literally, connecting points.

Physical violence

Sociological research in the industrialised states of the West focuses on *physical* violence (also *direct* or *personal* violence). The main focus of interest is generally the actual violent protagonist, whose violent acts usually coincide with a direct physical confrontation (Waldmann 1995: 430; von Trotha 1997: 25). In German research discourse, this type of research focuses on causes and perpetrators and – to name an example – seeks to identify causes of extreme right-wing violence, as well as methods of combating it (e.g. Heitmeyer 2002).[14] It has been criticised in the past decade by representatives of a field of research that regards itself as innovative. For instance, Trutz von Trotha criticises violence research, which he characterises as 'traditional', for representing a sociology of the causes of violence, but not a sociology of violence. In his view, it is based on premises which focus their attention on perpetrators rather than violence or the victims of violence.

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Sources consulted

https://www.merriam-webster.com

https://en.wiktionary.org/

http://www.linguee.de

http://www.duden.de

Galtung, J.: *Violence, Peace, and Peace Research* in: Journal of Peace Research, Vol. 6, No. 3 (1969), pp. 167-191.

Hartmann, R.R.K. & Stork, F.C.: *Dictionary of Language and Linguistics*. London: Applied Science Publishers, 1972.

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[14] I decided to split this sentence because it was getting long and convoluted.