

Variant status

The fact that in a given situation y is the main or prototypical equivalent (see B. Defrancq, 1995) for x does not necessarily mean that the reverse is also the case. Therefore, this aspect of the translation relation has to be stated explicitly for the two directions $x \rightarrow y$ and $y \rightarrow x$. So e.g. although E *car* gets two Dutch translations namely *auto* and *wagen*, both with a different variant status namely 'main' for *auto* and 'variant' for *wagen*, in reversing, the status of *car* for *wagen* will be 'main'. Furthermore, although the 'status' of a translation equivalent is for the greater part dependent on a.o. its pragmatics, its value cannot (always) completely be inferred from it, other factors, such as the mere existence of other alternatives, also playing a role.

Lexicalization status

Sometimes the degree of lexicalization of an expression and its translation differ. This is of course relevant information for the reversal. Items which are non-lexicalized in the target language (see under conceptual equivalence: 'description') will be blocked in the reversal process. On the other hand typical culture-bound items from the target language will never appear in the source language and therefore cannot be 'generated' by the reversal. As a rule therefore, the $B \rightarrow A$ database resulting from the $A \rightarrow B$ reversal, will always show gaps which will need to be filled.

5. Conclusions and Further Prospects

By making use of tools such as OMBI the idea of creating *linkable* lexical databases has been given shape. The advantages are obvious: while making an $A \rightarrow B$ dictionary/lexical database, a greater part of the $B \rightarrow A$ database is already created, reducing the amount of work drastically. After a testing period in which language pairs such as Dutch-Estonian and English-Portuguese have been used we can estimate the reduction of labour to be at least one third of the total workload (for the two databases).

On the other hand, it should be clear that, in order to work with OMBI properly, one needs to have a fairly thorough bilingual competence. Although OMBI has been developed with Dutch and Flemish government money this does not imply that it can only be used in projects with Dutch as a source and/or target language. On the contrary, at the moment