

## **Contrasts and contact of cohesive features in English and German**

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In recent years, the investigation of language contact through translation has gained considerable attention (e.g. Becher, House, and Kranich 2009; Steiner 2008). However, the studies are frequently restricted to the examination of individual features – generally focussing on lexico-grammar as a realization of “pragmatic” and/ or registerial phenomena. Furthermore, the question remains whether the specific character of the translation situation results in specific contact phenomena that are different from the outcome of contact situations typically analysed in classical language contact research such as individual bilingualism.

Our study concentrates on the area of cohesion for two reasons. Firstly, cohesion appears to be an interesting area of contact-related research because it is probably not perceived by authors to be an area of potential contrasts. Secondly, these contrasts are still under-researched. Comprehensive discussions of the systemic resources of cohesion exist for English and, to a lesser extent, for German. In addition, there are some corpus-linguistic analyses examining individual linguistic phenomena at text or discourse level in a contrastive perspective. No work is yet available comparing a broader range of cohesive resources in the two language systems as well as their differing instantiations in English and German texts, even where the systemic resources appear similar at first sight. This lack of contrastive work may in part be due to the different conceptualizations of cohesion in the research traditions concerned, creating difficulties for comparison. Beyond comparison and contrast, the literature on *contact* phenomena between the two languages on the level of cohesion is as yet very limited.

After taking stock of the different contact situations, in particular translation and related situations such as scientific exchange, international broadcasting etc., we shall discuss corpus evidence from the CroCo Corpus, a German-English translation corpus, for differences in terms of demonstrative versus pronominal reference. This will comprise both the quantification of contrasts with respect to this cohesive feature as well as the qualitative analysis of aligned translation pairs in order to identify traces of language contact. Contrast is seen as a necessary, even if not a sufficient condition for language contact. We will assess the suitability of corpus methods for explaining causes for contact phenomena and will discuss methods that may complement quantitative corpus analyses. On the basis of this case study, we will identify some aspects in which contact through translation may lead to phenomena that are both different in nature from classical contact situations and that may also reflect a sequence of borrowing features different from Thomason and Kaufman's (1988) borrowing scale.

### References

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