

Anything *but* simple? Adversative connectors between English and Slovene

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Povzetek

Članek se osredotoča na pogostnost in načine rabe angleških protivnih povezovalcev in njihovih prevodnih ustreznic v slovenskem jeziku. Tovrstni povezovalci predstavljajo zanimiv raziskovalni izziv za kontrastivne študije, saj se v različnih jezikovnih okoljih lahko pojavljajo v različnih vlogah, kar posledično pomembno vpliva tudi na prevajalske odločitve. V članku je predstavljena korpusna raziskava na osnovi angleško-slovenskega dela prevodoslovnega korpusa Spook. Po pregledu pojavljanja najpogostejših angleških protivnih povezovalcev so podrobneje predstavljene pogostnost in raba povezovalca *but* ter njegove prevodne ustreznice v vlogah medpovednega, medstavčnega in medbesednega protivnega povezovalca, pa tudi druge pragmatične in povezovalne funkcije, ki niso vezane na protivnost. Študija izhaja iz hipoteze, da ima, tudi zaradi svoje polisemičnosti, angleški povezovalec *but* v slovenščini na voljo celo paleto prevodnih ustreznic ter da je mogoče razpoznati določeno korelacijo med vlogami angleškega povezovalca *but* in njegovimi slovenskimi ustreznici. Zavedanje o različnih vlogah, ki jih povezovalci odigrajo v besedilu, je pomembno tudi v pedagoškem okolju in lahko pripomore k višji kakovosti študentskih prevodov.

Ključne besede: angleški protivni konektorji, konektor *but*, slovenske prevodne ustreznice, neprotivna raba

1 INTRODUCTION

Sentence connectors, such as conjunctions and linking adverbials, are one of the most important explicit markers of cohesion since, in the words of Halliday and Hasan (1976: 226), they “express a certain meaning which presupposes the presence of the other components in the discourse”. The authors distinguish between four main types of logical relation which explicitly signal the links between clauses, sentences and even larger parts of text: additive, adversative, causal and temporal (*ibid.*: 238-239). These relations may be associated with “different threads of meaning at the different places in the fabric of language”; thus it follows that “when they are expressed on their own, unaccompanied by other explicit connecting factors, they have a highly cohesive effect” (*ibid.*: 227).

In this paper, the notion of connectors is understood as covering a wide array of expressions used as a linking device to create cohesive ties within and between sentences. When used as cohesive devices, connectors are language-bound, therefore contrastively interesting, and often subject to changes in the process of translation. Although a number of authors (cf. Halliday and Hasan 1976, Van Dijk 1977, 1979, Schiffrin 2003) have investigated and discussed in detail these English elements from a cohesive point of view, few of their findings were taken into account and further explored in Slovenia. Instead, connectors have mostly been discussed with regard to their structural syntactic function, foregrounding their inter- and intra-sentential role (cf. Toporišič 1991). Toporišič (*ibid.*: 378-379) briefly examines conjunctions at the sentence level and those with more than just one role, i.e. used in either coordinate or subordinate structures. However, he fails to account for the text-organising function of connectors. In fact, there are few researchers of Slovene with studies focusing on connectors, especially with regard to their text-organising function (cf. Gorjanc 1998, Schlamberger Brezar 1998). Only lately, running parallel to the new discoveries in corpus linguistics, intercultural rhetoric and translation studies, more attention has been paid in Slovenia to the inter-cultural and meta-textual role of connectors (cf. Balažič Bulc 2010, Balažič Bulc and Gorjanc 2009, 2015, Gorjanc 2005, Hirci 2013, Hirci and Mikolič Južnič 2014, Pisanski Peterlin 2010, 2013, Schlamberger Brezar 2011, 2013). Thus it seems that this particular field has by no means been explored exhaustively in Slovenia, neither for Slovene itself nor contrastively, and much still needs to be done in particular with regard to the cohesive and pragmatic function of connectors.

The article aims to assess the relationships between English and Slovene adversative connectors: we are interested in the frequency and distribution patterns of adversative connectors. These connectors present a challenge for contrastive studies, since their extremely varied uses may differ considerably in different language

situations. As a result, this may have a significant impact on translation choices, in particular when translating from English into Slovene.

Since adversative relations are among the most common in the analysed texts and the number of occurrences for all adversative connectors is far too extensive to be dealt with in a study of this size, the central part of the analysis focuses on the most frequent English adversative connector *but*: the main aim of the paper is to show which translation equivalents of the connector *but* are found in the corpus of literary texts (cf. section 4), how the interpretation of this connector may be shifted from adversative to other relations, and how its functions may shift during the process of translation.

2 ADVERSATIVE CONNECTORS

2.1 Overview of adversative connectors in English

As connectors are quite a large group of cohesive devices, the present study foregrounds only adversative connectors, since the concept of contrast is one of the four basic entities used to connect ideas or events (cf. Altenberg 2006, Halliday and Hasan 1976: 250-256, Rudolph 1996, Quirk et al 1985: 935). The main function of adversative connectors in both coordination and subordination is to indicate that there is a connective relation between two contrastive states and the speaker's opinion on the expressed relationship. Thus the connection of contrast in an A – B proposition expresses the speaker's opinion about these two propositions, which are both valid simultaneously, while proposition B signifies some contrast to the information presented in proposition A (Rudolph, 1996: 32-40). Typically, English adversative connectors are divided into two main groups – those that are expressed as a single word (e.g. *but*, *yet*, *however*), and those used as a multi-unit phrase (e.g. *at any rate*, *on the other hand*). According to Halliday and Hasan (1976: 242), adversative connectors can be further divided into adversative proper (e.g. *however*, *although*, *though*, *but*), contrastive (e.g. *in fact*, *on the other hand*), dismissive (e.g. *in any case*), and corrective (e.g., *on the contrary*).

Wang (2011: 12-13) reports that as many as 68 English contrastive connectors¹ can be found in the BNC and COCA corpora; in his study it emerges that the connector *but* is by far the most frequent, as it covers over a half (51.4% in BNC and 53.9% in COCA) of the total usage of contrastive connectors. Therefore this

¹ Wang (2011) uses the term *contrastive connector* (synonymous with connective) as an umbrella term for all linking expressions (conjunctions and adverbials alike) expressing both adversativity and concession in coordinate and subordinate structures.

paper is primarily concerned with the adversative connector *but*, although the basic frequencies of some of the most frequent adversative connectors have also been verified in order to confirm its central position among adversative connectors in the corpus.

The connector *but* can be used as both a co-ordinate and subordinate conjunction expressing adversity or contrast (cf. OALD², Halliday and Hasan 1976). It may denote either something which is a complete contrast of positive-negative opposition, or it may show only partial contrast or concession. When in its adversative role, *but* is used to introduce a phrase or a clause contrastive with what has already been mentioned. In addition to functioning as a co-ordinating or subordinating conjunction with negative implication, indicating the impossibility of anything other than what is already mentioned, the connector *but* can also express the meaning of *except* or *only*, which cannot be understood in a strictly adversative sense. Bell (2010) explores different functions of sentence initial *but* in academic discourse, while Altenberg (1999, 2002) focuses on the functions of concessive connectors and their cross-linguistic correspondence.

The connector *but* can thus be used in a number of ways. In the present study, the focus is not on the type of adversative relation implied, but on Halliday and Hasan's implication that these elements function on textual, clausal and phrasal level (1976: 238-239). In view of the multi-faceted nature of *but*, a distinction is made between its adversative and non-adversative uses (cf. section 4), as well as among the functions mentioned.

2.2 Overview of adversative connectors in Slovene

In his fundamental grammar of Slovene, Toporišič (1991: 378-379) distinguishes between adversative conjunctions expressing contrast to what has already been mentioned (such as *a*, *ampak*, *pa*, *toda*, *vendar*) and those expressing opposition yet with a different purpose (*temveč*, *marveč*, *samo*, *le*).³ The *Dictionary of Standard Slovene* (Bajec et al., 2000) offers brief explanations on the differences in meaning between the studied linguistic elements, which are accompanied with some practical examples of use.

However, it can be quickly established that no detailed theoretical study has been made so far with a clear delineation between the various distribution patterns, uses and functions of adversative connectors which would be of help in further

² For more details, see <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/but>.

³ More on the topic of conjunctions, conjuncts and connectors in Slovene can be found in Černelič (1993), Jakop (2000), Smolej (2004), and Skubic (1999).

studies between two or more languages. It is not the aim of the authors of this paper to engage in a detailed theoretical discussion of the individual connectors and their roles in Slovene, as they are studied only insofar as they are used as translation equivalents for the English connector *but*.

3 CONNECTORS AND TRANSLATION

A number of studies on connectors in translation studies seem to be related to the topic of the explicitation hypothesis proposed by Blum-Kulka in her seminal work from 1986. An overview of the literature (cf. Baker 1996, Baumgarten et al. 2008, Denver 2009, Englund Dimitrova 2005, House 2004, Klaudy 2008, Nølke 2007, Olohan and Baker 2000, Pym 2008, Vinay and Darbelnet 1995) shows that it is cohesive relations in particular which seem to be subject to explicitation, as translators frequently resort to adding cohesive links in their translations. The explicitation concept is in fact linked to the idea that the language of translations often differs considerably from the language of original works, because translators state more explicitly information that is usually only implicit in the original language. Some scholars have argued against the theory (most notably Becher 2010, 2011), as earlier studies on the explicitation hypothesis have given somewhat contradictory results (cf. Englund-Dimitrova 2005: 35). As far as adversative relations are concerned, however, studies have been published which report that there appears to be a strong tendency to explicitly mark these relations (Denver 2009).

In Slovenia, several studies have been undertaken on a variety of different topics in contrastive analysis and intercultural/rhetorical differences between the studied languages, yet only a few have a clear focus on connectors (Balažič Bulc 2010, Balažič Bulc and Gorjanc 2015, Hirci 2013, Hirci and Mikolič Južnič 2014, Pisanski 2010, Schlamberger Brezar 2011), although none deal with adversative relations in particular.⁴

Our study focuses on the ways the connector *but* is translated into Slovene and on the degree of correspondence between the functions of the studied connectors in both source texts and target texts. In addition to the frequency and distribution patterns of the adversative functions of *but* in English and a correlation of the overall usage of its renderings in Slovene, we are also interested in its presence in a non-adversative capacity. Therefore, the aim is to address the following questions:

⁴ A new study by Pisanski Peterlin on the translation of sentence-initial adversative connectives from Slovene into English in academic discourse is included in the present volume.

- Is the connector *but* used in all the possible functions at all levels?
- Which Slovene adversative connectors are used as translation equivalents of *but*?
- Will the functions of *but* and its target text translation equivalents mostly correlate?
- Is there a correlation between the target text functions and target text translation equivalents?

4 CORPUS AND METHOD

A corpus methodology was applied to obtain the results, with automatic extraction of examples and manual analysis of functions and translation equivalents. The study is based on Spook, the first Slovene translation corpus, designed and compiled between 2009 and 2011 as part of the *Slovensko prevodoslovje – viri in raziskave* project.⁵ The Spook corpus consists of 95 literary works and has a subcorpus of 23 original Slovene novels and four subcorpora of literary works in foreign languages (English, French, German and Italian) and their translations in Slovene (cf. Vintar 2013). All parts of the corpus are tagged for morpho-syntactic specifications, while the parallel corpora are also aligned. Table 1 provides some details on the corpus composition of the parts relevant for our study, i.e. the subcorpora of original texts in English and Slovene, and the subcorpus of translations from English to Slovene.

Table 1: Statistical data on the relevant Spook subcorpora.

Spook subcorpus	Tokens (million)	Units	From	To
Original English	1.16	9	1992	2007
Translations from English	1.15	9	2002	2008

The subcorpus of original texts in Slovene comprises 1,644,967 words, while the parallel English-Slovene subcorpus contains 2,308,870 tokens, of which 1,160,451 are part of the English subcorpus and 1,148,419 are part of the Slovene subcorpus. All original texts in the Slovene subcorpus were written by native speakers of Slovene; translations from English into Slovene were also made by Slovene native speakers.

The present study was carried out in several stages and included both automatic and manual analysis. The CUWI⁶ concordancer also created as part of the Spook

⁵ Project coordinator Špela Vintar.

⁶ More details on the corpus are available at <http://nl.ijs.si/cuwi>.

project helped in the automatic extraction of all the relevant connectors in all the subcorpora in question. Raw data were further analysed manually.

Initially, an overview of English adversative connectors present in the corpus was performed, extracting examples of frequent adversative connectors in order to establish which of them is the most frequent. The connector *but* was singled out and stage two comprised a manual analysis of all the concordances containing *but* found in the subcorpus, and all the relevant translations in Slovene. Three separate analyses of these examples were then carried out: a) an analysis of the functions of *but* in the source texts (see section 5.2); b) an analysis of the translation equivalents of *but* in the target texts; and c) an analysis of the functions of the translation equivalents in the target texts.

The analysis focused on the cohesive role played by *but* in the source and target texts, therefore we divided the uses of the connector according to whether it was used as a connector at the text, clause or phrase level. Since *but* is polysemous in nature, as shown in section 2.1, a separate category was introduced for those instances where it was not used as an adversative connector. These different functions and uses are illustrated in the following examples:⁷

- a) **Textual function:**
*You three were evidently meant to go with the great people. **But** you would not have fared any better.*
- b) **Clausal function:**
*Why, Sophie could not begin to imagine, **but** that was hardly the issue at this point.*
- c) **Phrasal function:**
*Ron, on the other hand, looked sheepish **but** also rather pleased with himself.*
- d) **Non-adversative use:**
*He's nothing **but** carrion now.*
*Langdon **could not help but** marvel over Saunier's brilliant hiding.*

Some examples were far from clear-cut and a decision had to be made during the analysis on the main function played by the connector *but*. The main criterion was whether it was used in simple sentences and main clauses (textual function), connecting two clauses (clausal function) or connecting units smaller than a clause, e.g. two phrases/words, including examples of ellipsis of link verbs (phrasal function).

⁷ All examples are from the Spook corpus.

Translation equivalents of *but* were identified manually and classified according to the type of Slovene connector used (e.g. *a, ampak, pa, toda, vendar*, etc.). Afterwards, they were also analysed in terms of the above mentioned functions in the same way as the English examples. Finally, the results of these analyses were cross-compared in search of correlations between the function in the source and target texts, as well as between the function and choice of translation equivalents in the target texts. The results are provided in the next section of the paper.

5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the results yielded by the Spook corpus analysis are discussed. First an overview of all adversative connectors found in the subcorpus is given (5.1), then the functions of the connector *but* in source texts (ST) and target texts (TT) are presented (5.2), further on, statistics about the target text translation equivalents (TEs) of the connector *but* are discussed, and, finally, functions of TEs of *but* are presented and cross-compared with source text functions and types of target text equivalents (5.3). The last part of this chapter is devoted to the instances of non-adversative uses of *but* (5.4).

5.1 Adversative connectors in the English subcorpus

In order to verify the notion of *but* being the most frequent adversative connector in English (Wang 2011), we did a quick overview of the most common adversative connectors in the subcorpus. The most common adversative connectors (expressing both contrast and concession) are single connectors such as *but, however, nevertheless, nonetheless, only, rather, still, though* (in final positions), *yet*, and phrases such as *at any rate, in any case, in fact, on the contrary* and *on the other hand*. As shown in Table 2, the search yielded results revealing that the connector *but* is by far the most common of all the selected adversative connectors. This is indeed in line with Wang (2011: 12-13), who also reports similar findings on the overall frequency of *but* in BNC and COCA, as mentioned above. A decision to choose *but* for our analysis was thus confirmed.

Table 2: Distribution of English adversative connectors in the English subcorpus

	Absolute occurrences	Frequency per 100,000 words
although	142	12.2
but	5,997	516.7
however	229	19.7
in any case	38	3.3
in fact	100	8.6
nevertheless	19	1.6
nonetheless	19	1.6
only	1,393	120
on the contrary	12	1
on the other hand	16	1.4
rather	334	28.8
still	1,193	102.8
though	799	68.9
yet	651	56

5.2 Functions of the connector *but* in source texts and target texts

Below, the results are provided for the different function of the connector *but* in STs (Figure 1), followed by functions of Slovene TEs of the connector *but* in TTs (Figure 2).

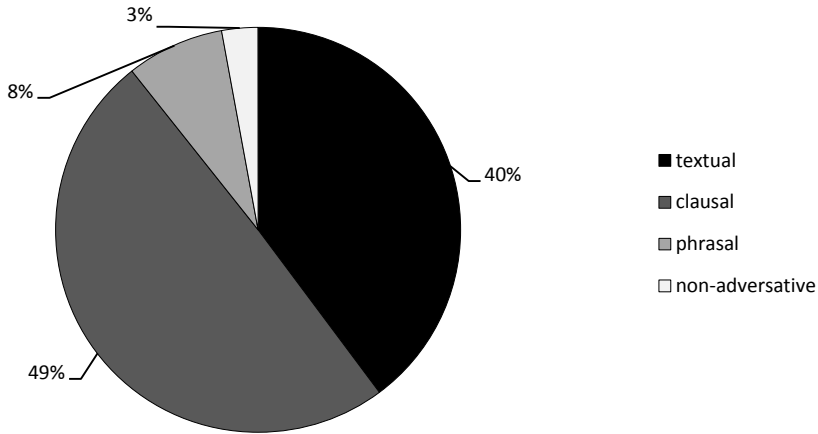


Figure 1: Functions of *but* in ST.

As Figure 1 shows, *but* is most frequently found in its intra-sentential role functioning as a linking element connecting various clauses (49%), which is closely followed by *but* in the textual function (40%), while its function as a linker on the level of phrases is much less pronounced (8%). In the remaining 3% of the examples *but* was used in a non-adversative function (see section 5.4).

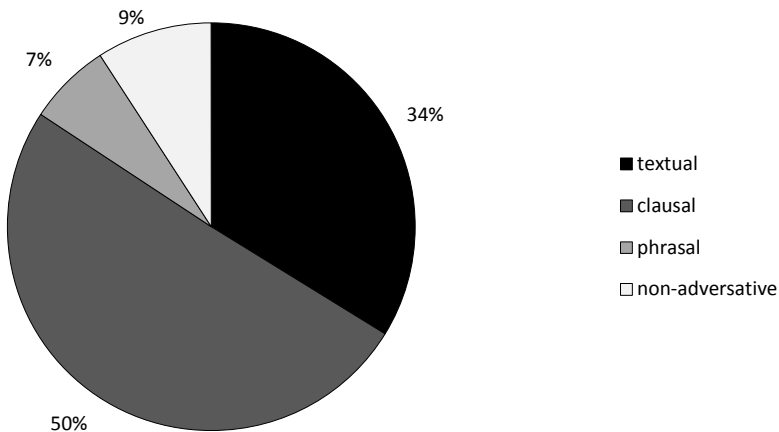


Figure 2: Functions of TEs of *but* in TTs.

Although the analysis of the functions of Slovene TEs (see section 5.3) followed the identification of the TEs themselves in the original research, we decided to

present the results of the former here in order to be able to compare them more easily with the proportions of the functions of *but* in the ST subcorpus. Figure 2 shows the results of this analysis, where the same distinctions as those summarised in Figure 1 were followed. It appears that the functions of the Slovene TEs used in place of the English connector *but* correlate quite strongly with the distributional patterns of the functions established for *but* in the source texts: in 50% of the examples TEs were also used in the clausal function, followed by examples of the textual function (34%), where the dissimilarity with the corresponding ST function proportion was most prominent (the proportion was 40% in the STs). On the other hand, similar to the proportion in the STs, in only 7% of the examples were the TEs used in the phrasal function. At the same time, 9% of the TT examples, i.e. three times as many as in STs, contain TEs in a non-adversative capacity. It would thus appear that in some instances, instead of retaining its original function, *but* was translated into Slovene by a connector occupying a different function altogether. Judging from the two figures above (cf. Figures 1 and 2), we could conclude that a proportion of instances whose function was originally textual has been shifted to a non-adversative level in the TT. To verify the validity of this, the results for single functions of *but* in the ST were cross-compared with the functions of Slovene TEs. Figures 3, 4 and 5 below illustrate to what extent single functions of *but* in the ST subcorpus correlate with the functions of the TEs in the TT subcorpus.

As far as the textual function of *but* is concerned, as evident from Figure 3, the corpus results revealed a significant, 80% correspondence with the textual function of the TEs, showing that the great majority of occurrences of the connector *but* do have a corresponding Slovene TE in the same function (example 1). Yet 11% of the examples were translated with TEs in the clausal function (example 2), 1% even with a lower rank status, i.e. the phrasal function (example 3), and as many as 8% of all instances of *but* in textual functions were translated with non-adverbial elements (most commonly with the Slovene co-ordinate conjunction *in*, or *and* in English, in the textual function; cf. example 4).

1. *Sometimes I have it during the day, but then it's a daydream. **But** I often have it at night as well.*
***Ampak** večkrat jih sanjam ponoči.*
2. *...no way around it, to school he must go. **But** he could be with John at weekends, ...*
*Harriet mu je skušala pojasniti, da se temu ne more izogniti, da se v šolo pač mora, in dodala, da **pa** bo lahko z Johnom vsak konec tedna in med počitnicami.*
3. *It was all temporary. **But** not for Ziplock.*
*Zanj že mogoče, **ampak** ne za Vrečko.*

4. *But you're doing what it says?*
In ti greš meni nič tebi nič narediti to, kar je pač tam naččkano zraven?

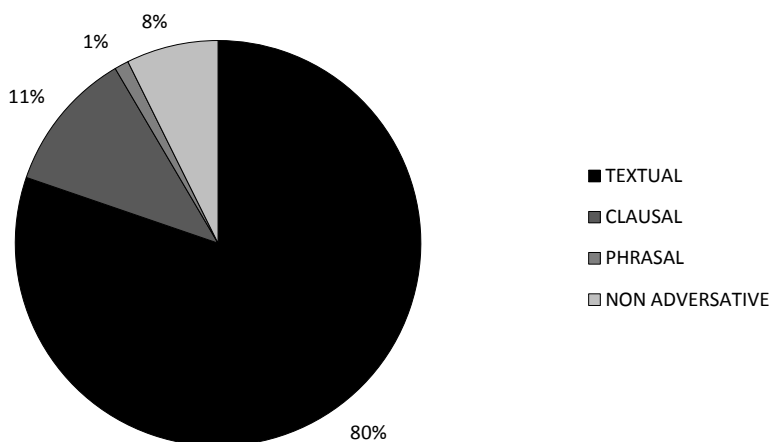


Figure 3: Functions of TEs of textual *but*.

An even higher, 86% correspondence can be discerned between the clausal functions of *but* and its Slovene TEs, as illustrated in Figure 4 (cf. example 6). Still, in a few instances, clausal *but* was translated with a TE in textual (3%, example 5) or phrasal functions (4%, example 7). Again, quite similarly to the translations of textual *but*, 7% of the TEs were used in a non-adversative capacity (example 8).

5. ... over his companion's head, **but** the source of the noise proved to be nothing ...
 ... prek glave pajdaša. **A** izkazalo se je, da gre zgolj za snežno belega pava, ki dostojanstveno stopa vrh žive meje.
6. At some stage the hull had been coated with European Union blue, **but** most of that had been scraped off during various salvage missions.
 Pred mnogimi leti so raketo prebarvali v živo modro, **vendar** je bila ta plast že pošteno zdelana.
7. Life had become easier ... **but** this was only as she saw it, as Dorothy
 Življenje je postalo lažje ... **a** samo v njenih očeh, kakor ji je razkrila Dorothy.
8. Not only did he owe Langdon a favor, **but** Teabing was a Grail researcher...
 Ni samo dolgoval usluge Langdonu, **tudi** preučeval je gral ...

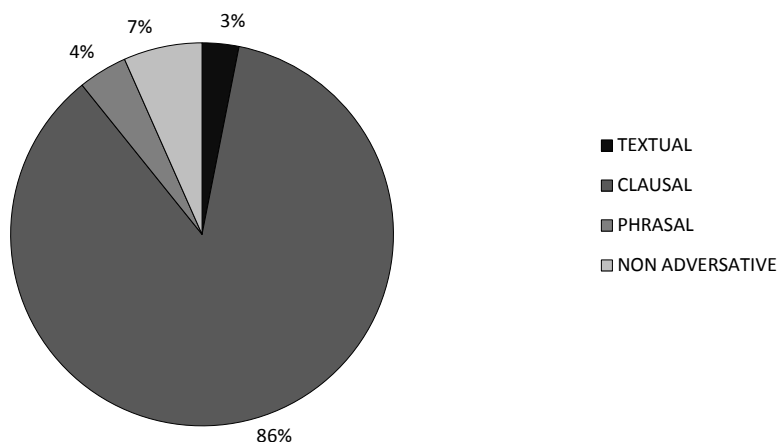


Figure 4: Functions of TEs of clausal *but*.

However, some more variation can be observed between the TEs of phrasal *but* (cf. Figure 5), where 49% of connectors in the target text in fact shifted to a different function. So while 51% of the instances were translated with a TE in the phrasal function (example 11), as many as 38% were upgraded to the clausal function (example 10) and a few (3%) even to the textual function (example 9). Similar to the previously analysed correlations, 7% of all the instances of *but* in the phrasal function were translated with non-adverbial connectors (example 12).

9. *'What have you got in there?' asked William, jocular **but** uneasy, seeing Harriet's stomach convulse.*
*"Kaj pa imaš tam notri?" je šegavo, **a** nelagodno vprašal William, ko je videl, kako se je Harriet krčevito zveržil trebuh.*
10. *...golden head was in the shape of a cross, **but** not a normal cross.*
*Velika zlata glava je imela obliko križa, ki **pa** ni bil običajen.*
11. *Yet it was not her blood - **but** Myton's!*
***Pa** ni bila njena - bila je Mytonova!*
12. *With juice like a fruit **but** hard like a nut.*
*Sočen kot sadje **in** trd kot oreh.*

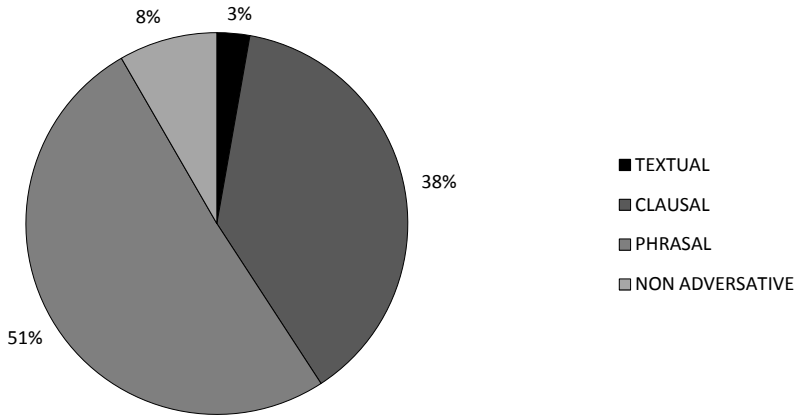


Figure 5: Functions of TEs of phrasal *but*.

In conclusion, we can clearly see that the picture painted by a simple comparison of Figures 1 and 2 above, i.e. by the functions performed by *but* and its TEs, is not an accurate one. Though the textual and clausal function of *but* are largely preserved in TTs, up to 20% of the instances display a shift in their function, caused most frequently by slight variations in expressing the meanings from the STs or, occasionally, by pragmatic or stylistic constraints, as seen in the above examples. The most differences can actually be observed in those examples where *but* is used at the phrasal level. Though from the overall proportions given in Figures 1 and 2 it would seem that the English instances are almost straightforwardly translated with TEs in an equivalent function, in fact only slightly more than half of them are. We could tentatively suggest, judging from the examples found in the corpus, that adversative *but* in the phrasal function tends to be translated with a TE in the clausal function when in the original instance we are dealing with a case of ellipsis: the Slovene version then contains a more explicit version with a verb added or repeated, thus changing the function of the adversative TE from phrasal to clausal, as shown in example 10.

5.3 Translation equivalents for the connector *but* in target texts

The connector *but* can be translated into Slovene by a range of Slovene adversative connectors. The analysis yielded results showing a vast array of different Slovene TEs were indeed used in the literary translations in Spook.

The most frequent translation equivalent for *but* in the Spook corpus (cf. Figure 6) was *ampak* (27%), followed by *pa* (19%), *toda* (16%), *a* (14%) and *vendar* (8%); the remaining Slovene TEs of *but* comprise various other adversative connectors such as combinations of two adversative connectors, e.g. *vendar pa* (example 18),⁸ or other, less frequent connectors⁹ (7%), and a number of non-adversative expressions (9%; discussed in more detail in section 5.4). Examples 13 to 18 show the types of adversative TEs used in place of the connector *but* listed above.

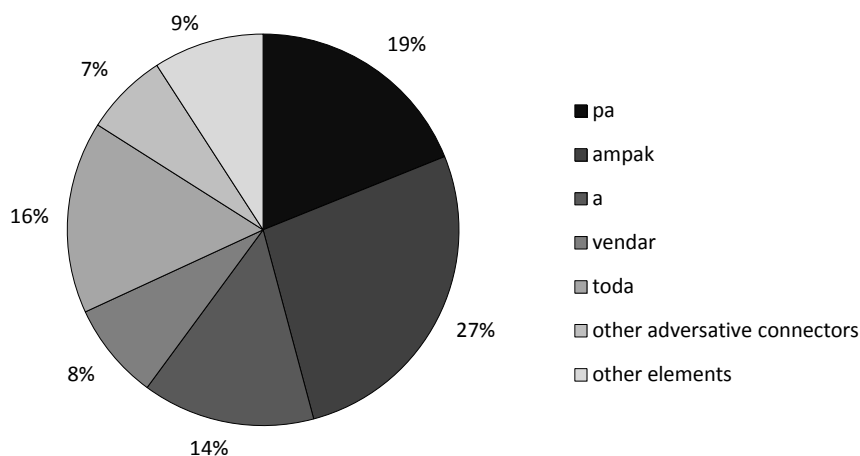


Figure 6: Types of connectors in TT.

13. *Willesden was not as pretty as Queens Park, but it was a nice area.*
*Willesden ni bil tako lep kot Queens Park, bil **pa** je prijeten.*
14. *No offence, but I've got work to do.*
*Ne mi zameriti, **ampak** res imam veliko dela.*
15. *He shook my shoulder a little bit but I didn't move.*
*Malo me je stresel za ramo, **a** jaz se nisem premaknil.*
16. *But things are not as good as they were*
***Toda** danes stvari ne stojе več tako dobro, kot so.*

⁸ In the category of other adversative connectors, almost half were combinations of the connectors *vendar* and *pa* in either order or occasionally in the form of *pa vendarle*. They amounted to 3% of all the TEs found.

⁹ These comprised, in order of frequency, the adversative connectors *temveč*, *samo (da)*, *le (da)*, *marveč*, *pač pa*, *sicer pa*, *ampak ... pa*, *zgolj* and some combinations with other types of connectors (expressing cause or clarification) such as *pa saj*, *ampak saj* etc.

17. *Sophie wanted to run, but she stood transfixed.*
*Sophie je hotela zbežati, **vendar** je stala kot ohromela.*
18. *But he needed a fire, and other things besides...*
***Vendar pa** je potreboval ogenj, poleg ognja pa še druge reči.*

No conclusive correlation can be observed between the functions of *but* in the source text and the type of preferred TEs. In fact, the differences between the types of TEs which were used to translate the various functions of *but* are relatively small, as all types of TEs are used for all functions of the connector *but* (see Table 3). It might be noted that *ampak*, *pa* and *toda* are preferred in the textual function, while *pa* and *ampak* are most commonly used in the clausal function, and *a*, *ampak* and *pa* are most common in the phrasal function. Since all of the Slovene TEs are the translations of one and the same English connector, we can assume that in many cases Slovene adversative connectors are perhaps to be considered as interchangeable and probably regarded as synonymous.

Table 3: Proportions of TEs for various functions of *but* (in %).

Types of TEs	Function of <i>but</i> in STs			
	textual	clausal	phrasal	non-adversative
pa	19.3	19.7	17.3	4.0
ampak	31.1	24.9	23.3	1.2
a	11.7	16.9	15.6	1.2
vendar	5.0	10.0	13.7	0
toda	19.5	15.2	5.6	1.2
other adversative connectors	4.9	6.6	16.2	13.9
other elements	7.4	6.6	8.3	78.6

A closer look at the results yielded by the Spook corpus reveals that some TEs are in fact slightly more frequent in some functions than others: e.g. Slovene adversative connector *vendar* is much less frequently used in the textual function (5%), and is more often employed as a TE of *but* in clausal or phrasal capacity (10% and 13.7% respectively), while the reverse is true of *toda*. Connector *toda* is actually much less frequently found in translations of *but* used in the phrasal function (only 5.6%) compared to its use as TE for both textual and clausal functions of *but* (19.5% and 15.2% respectively). The connectors united in the category ‘other adversative connectors’ are more frequently used as TEs of *but* in

the phrasal function (16.2%) compared to translations of *but* in textual (4.9%) or clausal (6.6%) functions.

In the same way, we also checked if there was any correlation between the functions performed by TEs in the TTs and the types of Slovene adversative connectors employed. Nothing conclusive could be established on this front either, as is seen in Table 4. The same slight preferences for specific connectors in some functions rather than others confirm what was observed above: *vendar* is preferred on the phrasal level, *toda* is more common in textual and clausal functions, and other adversative connectors are most commonly used on the phrasal level.

Table 4: Proportions of types of TEs in relation to their function (in %).

Types of TEs	Function of TEs			
	textual	clausal	phrasal	non-adversative
pa	12.3	26.4	20.8	0.9
ampak	38.1	24.4	26.9	0.3
a	14.6	16.2	17.3	0.2
vendar	5.7	10.2	14.7	0
toda	23.4	14.8	5.6	0
other adversative connectors	5.3	7.7	13.9	3.1
other elements	0.6	0.3	0.8	95.5

5.4 Translation equivalents for non-adversative *but*

Considering the polysemous nature of *but*, it is no surprise that in some of the instances found in the corpus this connector was not used in its adversative meaning. The proportion of these non-adversative examples is a mere 3% of all the concordances found; thus it can be concluded that *but* is indeed most common as an adversative connector.

Furthermore, there is – again, not surprisingly at all – a very strong correlation between the non-adversative uses of *but* and translations with non-adversative TEs, as illustrated by the results in Figure 7: 78.6% of all these instances were translated with non-adversative elements.

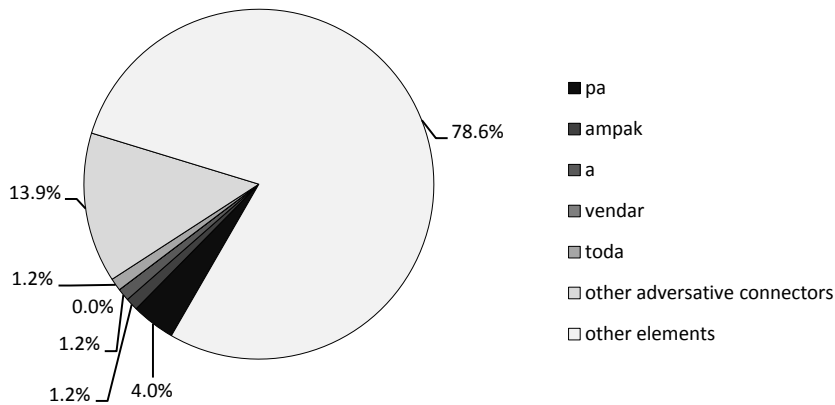


Figure 7: TEs for non-adversative *but*.

An extremely rich variety of expressions in Slovene can be observed as TEs in place of the non-adversative connector *but*, depending on the meaning that it assumes in the single instances, as evident from the following examples:

19. ...*who can tell me -? **But** Miss Granger can, of course!*
 ... *kdo mi zna povedati...? **Kdo drug kot** gospodična Grangerjeva, jasno!*
20. ...*those wreckers of all **but** the best-laid plans.*
 ... *ti pogubi vseh, **razen** najboljše skovanih načrtov.*
21. ...*Teabing would have no choice **but** to kill them both.*
 ... *Teabingu ne bo ostalo drugega, **kakor da** ubije oba.*

On the other hand, over 20% of the instances of non-adversative *but* were translated with adversative connectors. We might speculate that as the adversative interpretation of *but* is so common translators might be led to translate it with an adversative connector even when that is not the relation implied in the ST, as in example 22 below.

22. *Draco Malfoy did nothing **but** stare at Albus Dumbledore...*
*Draco Malfoy, ki je stal pred njim, **pa** je samo bolščal v Albusa Dumbledora ...*

6 CONCLUSIONS

The main aim of the present study was to observe the similarities and/or differences in the function and distribution patterns of Slovene translation equivalents of the English adversative expression *but*, which is the most frequently used

adversative connector in both in English in general (cf. Wang 2011) and in the corpus analysed here.

The analysis showed that there is quite a wide range of alternatives for the English adversative connector *but* in Slovene. The most frequent translation equivalent found in the corpus is the Slovene connector *ampak*, followed by *pa*, *toda*, *a* and *vendar*, which cover approximately 84% of all instances. Some 7% of the examples had other adversative connectors instead (such as *marveč*, *temveč*, *samo*, *le*). The remaining 9% are instances where translations of *but* comprised non-adversative elements. The results also show that despite a seemingly quite strong correspondence between the functions of *but* in STs and those of various adversative connectors used as target TEs in Slovene, a closer look reveals a more complex relationship, where correlations for different functions may vary considerably (e.g. for the phrasal function).

The functions of adversative connectors both in STs and TTs were cross-compared with the types of TEs, but no significant correlations were established. A few preferences were noticed in connection with some TT adversative connectors such as *toda* and *vendar*, but it would appear that in most cases translators can use any of the available adversative connectors as a TE of adversative *but* and that it is mainly a question of choice and stylistic preference.

Some limitations of the study ought to be pointed out, the first one being strongly related to the corpus. Since the Spook corpus is a collection of literary texts, it is fair to assume that a more varied corpus could perhaps yield different results on both frequency as well as distributional patterns of the analysed connectors.

Furthermore, it would be interesting to verify whether the distributional patterns of the Slovene connectors found in the corpus differ in any way from their distribution in original Slovene texts; however, this was out of the scope of the present research, which focused on translation equivalents, not on the situation concerning adversative connectors and their functions in (original and translated) Slovene. This remains to be analysed further in future research.

Another area reserved for future studies would be to verify the behaviour of other English adversative connectors, as they may or may not be similar to *but* in their uses and translatability. A study which would take into account a number of text types and a more varied range of ST adversative connectors and their TEs in the TTs would greatly benefit our understanding of the behaviour of these cohesive devices.

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