

Slovene and English word order from a translation perspective

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Povzetek

V slovenščini pregibanje zmanjšuje možnosti za nastanek pomenske nejasnosti, skladska in semantična vloga stavčnih členov pa sta neodvisni od njihovega vrstnega reda. V nasprotju s tem se v angleščini v veliki meri opiramo na besedni red, da razjasni, na primer, kaj je osebek in kaj predmet. Večina stavkov sledi shemi osebek > povedek > predmet. V angleščini lahko stilno zaznamovan besedni red povzroči nejasnost in bralcu oteži razumevanje. To je še posebno pomembno pri prevajanju med slovenščino in angleščino. V tem poglavju obravnavamo teoretsko podlago, predvsem členitev po aktualnosti, načelo razporeditve informacij, končni poudarek in vlogo stavčnih prislovnih določil v obeh jezikih. Ogledali si bomo tudi nekaj tipičnih problemov, povezanih z besednim redom, ki se pojavljajo pri prevajanju med slovenščino in angleščino.

Ključne besede: členitev po aktualnosti, prevajanje, slovenščina, angleščina, načelo razporeditve informacij, znane in nove informacije, končni poudarek, stava prislovnih določil

1 INTRODUCTION

Word order at the sentence level seems to me a rather neglected area in contrastive studies and yet it is one that can cause difficulties. When translating, novice translators tend to focus primarily on vocabulary or terminology, searching for appropriate translation equivalents, and on lexico-grammatical issues at the sub-sentence level. Similarly, the revision process usually focuses on lexis or on localised features such as verb forms, prepositions and articles. However, in reviewing English translations of Slovene texts, a problem I often encounter is unmotivated changes through which unmarked word order becomes marked or vice versa. Such changes make it more difficult for the reader to process the target text. Thus in this chapter I consider word order in Slovene and English from a translation point of view. I begin by discussing the theoretical background, including functional sentence perspective, the information principle, end focus and the role of sentence adverbials, considering the similarities and differences between the two languages. I then go on to consider aspects of word order that cause problems when translating from Slovene to English. Although the main focus will be on the distribution of information at the sentence level, I also look at the problem of adverbial location and at a couple of issues connected with adjectives. In addition, translation comments are offered in relation to the examples, which are from a wide range of authentic texts, where other useful points can be made.

2 FUNCTIONAL SENTENCE PERSPECTIVE

Word order¹ in Slovene is governed by the principle of functional sentence perspective (FSP, in Slovene *členitev po aktualnosti*) (Toporišič 1984: 532) which relates to the communicative function played by the parts of the sentence. In the case of unmarked or neutral word order, the sentence begins with the theme (*izhodišče*), which is what the sentence is about, and ends with the rheme (*jedro*), which tells us something new about the theme. If there is no emphasis involved, then the theme will consist of one of the following sentence elements: subject, predicate, object or adverbial (Toporišič op. cit. 533). With the exception of interrogative sentences beginning with a question word (e.g. *kdo, kam*), the less important part of the message comes first; this is often connected with what has already been said (*ibid.*).

In relation to FSP, Firbas (1964: 112) states that, roughly speaking, thematic elements “convey facts known from the verbal or situational context”, whereas rhematic elements “convey new, unknown facts”. Thus there develops within a

¹ Strictly speaking, what we are actually referring to here is the order of sentence elements, i.e. subject, verb, objects, predicates and adverbials.

text a cohesive pattern of given and new information. The former is treated by the speaker/writer as retrievable from the preceding discourse or context of situation; the latter is what the speaker/writer chooses to present as worthy of attention or ‘newsworthy’ (see Halliday 1967, Fries 1994). Moreover, in line with what Firbas (1992: 118) calls the “FSP linearity principle”, clause elements are arranged in a linear progression from the most thematic to the most rhematic, with the latter contributing the most towards the development of the discourse. The speaker/writer organises the message according to what he or she wishes to communicate – or rather, the way he or she wishes to communicate it, due to communicative, expressive or stylistic factors. This means that by changing the word order we may (perhaps unwittingly) change the message.

Within the theme-rheme framework, the order of the constituents of sentence elements or phrases is basically a matter of language convention. The order of phrase constituents, the position of clitics and their sequence in a clitic chain in Slovene is described by Toporišič (op. cit. 465-471, 535-540). This aspect of word order, which we shall not discuss in any detail here, is referred to by Firbas (ibid.) as “the grammatical principle”. In Slovene, marked word order deviates from the FSP linearity principle (i.e. where a rhematic element precedes a thematic one) and/or the grammatical principle.

2.1 The information principle

Word order in Slovene is far freer than in English, thanks to the inflectional system which means “there is little scope for ambiguity and the sequential order of words does not change their syntactic or semantic functions” (Herrity 2000, 333). In English, the “information principle” and the “principle of end-weight” (cf. Biber et al. 1999, Ch. 11) lead readers to expect information to be distributed in a particular way; failing to adhere to these principles for no apparent contextual reason undermines both the cohesion and coherence of the text, causing problems for the reader.

As in Slovene, the preferred distribution of information in the clause in English is for a gradual rise in information load as the clause progresses – this is the information principle, which corresponds to the FSP linearity principle mentioned above. The unmarked pattern here is always given-new. This makes the job of the listener/reader easier, contributing as it does to the cohesion of the text, since the given information is “closest to that which it connects back to and the new information is very often taken up in the subsequent discourse” (Biber et al., op. cit. 897). Consider the following sequence from an IMF press briefing:

We welcome the measures announced today that will strongly reinforce the ECB's accommodative stance. The planned expansion of the ECB's balance sheet will help lower borrowing costs across the Euro area, raise inflation expectations and reduce the risk of a protracted period of low inflation. These measures will also strongly increase the prospects of the ECB achieving its price stability mandate.

Each of these sentences begins with information which the speaker feels can be understood from what has been said before and build up to the information the speaker regards as most newsworthy. The speaker assumes that those present know which measures he is referring to; one of these measures is the planned expansion of the European Central Bank's balance sheet; and, of course, 'these measures' is an anaphoric reference to the preceding text. This does not mean that the climax of information has to be at the end of the clause – information can be re-ordered or fragmented to serve the needs of discourse – but this is what the members of the press would be expecting and so it facilitates communication.

The information principle is supported by the general principle of “end focus” (Biber et al., op. cit. 911), which places the nuclear intonation or stress on the last lexical item in the clause – and thus on the new information, for example:

The spokesperson announced that they were satisfied with the results of the new measures.

This is not undermined by double focus, in which an adverbial at the start of the sentence may also be emphasised:

At today's press conference, the minister expressed his confidence that the gathering would be a success.

Further support is provided by the principle of end-weight (Biber et al., op. cit. 898). In any clause, elements are frequently of different size, complexity or weight: by placing long and complex elements towards the end of the clause, we make it easier for the receiver, who does not have to retain complex information in short-term memory. Since 'heavy' elements tend to have a high information load, then the information principle and the principle of end-weight often reinforce each other.

2.2 Placement of adverbials

A further word order issue that arises when translating from Slovene to English is the location of adverbials – the latter term referring to adverbs and adverbial phrases that modify either the verb or the whole sentence. Basically, adverbials

can occur in initial, medial or final position in the sentence. The main difference with regard to the two languages relates to the medial position: in English this requires a particular type of adverbial, but in Slovene there is no such restriction. Thus Slovene medial position adverbs need to relocate to either initial or final position (Davis 1996).

The unmarked word order in English is SVO and, although adverbials are very mobile clause elements, the position between the verb and the object is usually avoided unless the object is complex, as in the following example:

The law of the survival of the fittest led inevitably to the survival and predominance of the men who were effective in war and who loved it because they were effective.

Note, however, that the adverbial could occur before the verb and indeed such a location is much more common.

Adverbials in initial position modify the whole sentence, offering some kind of setting – spatial, temporal or conceptual (e.g. probability, usuality, desirability, presumption):

In Central Europe it is usually Christmas Eve that is the main day of celebration.

Ever since I moved here, I have had problems.

Emotionally, I still can't come to terms with it.

Generally, it is the female that grows the largest.

The most common position for adverbials in English is final position, involving adverbials of manner, direction, time and so on that modify only the predicate:

She threw all his things out of the window.

His coronation was marked by a violent incident of anti-Semitism that *was all too common* in Medieval Europe.

I think she was treated very unfairly.

She always dresses very elegantly.

The medial position in English tends to involve certain types of adverb, such as those expressing frequency or indefinite time, degree and manner in passive sentences (e.g. I'm sure that the evidence will have been very carefully examined

by the police) (Davis 1996: 63). The medial position is thus fairly restricted in English but widely used in Slovene; we shall look at problems involving the translation of medial position adverbials below.

2.3 Basic clause patterns in English

English word order may not exactly be fixed, there is variation, but “the placement of core elements in the clause is *strictly regulated*” (Biber et al., op. cit. 898; my emphasis). Any variations that do occur are unusual or marked choices of word order. With the exception of certain interrogative (e.g. involving *do*) and negative clauses (e.g. following *never*), there is a preferred, unmarked order of clause elements: subject before verb, verb before its complements, and so on. Marked word order is where core clause elements are placed in an unusual position to achieve cohesion, emphasis or some other stylistic effect. It is worth reminding ourselves here of the major clause patterns in English, which are determined largely by how many elements the verb combines with²:

- SV Subject – verb phrase
Answers the question ‘What does/did X do?’ Often has an optional adverb added.
e.g. We **waited** (patiently).
- SVA Subject – verb phrase – obligatory adverbial
Answers ‘When is/was X? Where is/was X?’
e.g. He **was lying** on the floor.
- SVP_s Subject – verb phrase – subject predicate
Characterising pattern answers ‘What is/was X (like)? How did/has X change/changed?’
e.g. She **was** a teacher for ten years; now she’s a translator.
e.g. The restaurant **was closed** by the health inspector.
Identifying pattern answers ‘Which one is/was X?’
e.g. My only reliable source of work **is** a local publisher.
- SVO_d Subject – verb phrase – direct object
e.g. The demonstrators **burned** the American flag.
e.g. He **wrote** a book about climate change.

² This analysis is based on that used in the *Longman Grammar of English* (Biber et al. 1999). Note that in other grammars (such as Quirk et al. 1985) ‘predicate’ may be referred to as ‘complement’.

SVO_p Subject – verb phrase – prepositional object
 This pattern is rather difficult to distinguish from SVA! The prepositional object can be elicited with the question ‘Who? What?’
 e.g. A newly appointed commission **will look into** ways of economic and industrial co-operation.

SVO_iO_d Subject – verb phrase – indirect object – direct object
 e.g. Ivan’s mum **brought** him a cup of coffee.

SVO_dO_p Subject – verb phrase – direct object – prepositional object
 e.g. Some analysts **blame** the situation **on** tough competition in the European market.

SVO_dP_o Subject – verb phrase – direct object – object predicate
 e.g. My mother **found** it cold here.
 e.g. I **didn’t find** it funny.

SVO_dA Subject – verb phrase – direct object – obligatory adverbial
 e.g. She **placed** the baby on a blanket in the living room.
 e.g. **Leave** the essay in my pigeon hole.

Of course, clauses are adapted to fit the requirements of communication. For example, in visual descriptions such as we find in tourist guides, the fronting of locational information reflects the way we use such guides and look at the world around us:

To your left, you will see a large statue of a former mayor.

Thus the real-world strategy, which could be characterised as “stop-look-see” is “iconically mirrored in the syntax” (Enkvist 1991: 9). Similarly, we may switch from the active to the passive voice to retain the same ‘theme’ in subject position, maintain cohesion and thus ease text processing:

The minister got out of the car. He was immediately surrounded by journalists.

The passive is frequently used in English precisely for this reason – it enables us to place the object in subject position and vice versa (compare: Journalists immediately surrounded him). Passive forms and other devices, such as the use of ‘existential there’ (e.g. There are so many reasons why I can’t marry you) and clefting (e.g. It’s the expense that worries me) can be employed to make clauses fit the context, building a coherent text, giving emphasis where required and making the reader’s task easier.

3 TRANSLATING FROM SLOVENE INTO ENGLISH

The principles of word order in Slovene and English are not fundamentally different, and so it is likely that, when translating, in the great majority of cases the word order can remain the same – this is particularly the case when there is an unmarked given-new pattern in Slovene and/or the subject precedes the verb and the predicate. However, Slovene is more flexible than English, with word order more often being adjusted for emphasis or for stylistic reasons, and so there are cases where we may have to make changes. We shall now identify what might indicate that a change in word order may be required during the translation process.

3.1 The verb precedes the subject

The most obvious indication is where a sentence in the Slovene original does not follow an SV(O) pattern. Where the predicate and also, possibly, the verb comes before the subject then it is highly likely that a change of word order will be required, unless the passive is used in English.

In the simplest examples, where the passive is not an option, we may simply have to reverse the position of verb and subject to achieve an SVO pattern:

- (1_S) *Od leta 1963 podeljuje (V) društvo (S) vsako leto Sovretovo nagrado za posebne prevajalske dosežke v preteklem letu ali za življenjsko delo odličnih prevajalcev.*
- (1_E) Since 1963 the association (S) has granted (V) the annual Sovre Award for outstanding translation achievements in the previous year or for the lifetime achievement of first class translators.³

By contrast, here is an example where the passive is possible and the word order remains the same:

- (2_S) *Teran (O), to odlično vino karminaste barve, pozna (V) človek (S) že od davnine.*
- (2_E) Teran (S), this excellent carmine-red wine, has been known (V_{pass}) to man since ancient times.

³ In all the examples, the proposed translation is, of course, not the only possible one.

In the following sentence, about St. Valentine, the passive is used for the third person plural in Slovene and the prepositional phrase follows rather than precedes the verb:

(3_S) *V Angliji ga (O) kot zaščitnika zaljubljenecv in dobrih prijateljev častijo (V) že več kot petsto let.*

(3_E) In England, he (S) has been celebrated (V_{pass}) as the patron saint of lovers and close friends for over 500 years.

Translation note: in examples 1, 2 and 3 the Present Perfect, rather than the Present Simple, is used to translate the Slovene present tense; it denotes a time period beginning at a point in the past and lasting until the present.

And a similar example from a museum text, in which the initial prepositional phrase is relocated:

(4_S) *Iz železa so bili (V) nakit in zaponke (S) le ob začetku železne dobe.*

(4_E) Jewellery and clasps (S) were made (V_{pass}) of iron only at the beginning of the Iron Age.

Translation note: the use of *only* in English (for Slovene *le*) often causes problems because of the involvement of the dummy auxiliary *do* as in: 'Only after he said it did he realise he was wrong'. (We do not say: Only after he said it *he realised he was wrong).

In example 5, the emphasis in the sentence shifts from initial to final position:

(5_S) *Ne samo nanjo, tudi na mamo in očeta so (V) moje slike (S) naredile večji vtis, kot sem pričakoval.*

(5_E) My pictures (S) made (V) a much greater impression than I had expected – not only on her, but also on her mother and father.

The word order in the following example could not be duplicated in English; the train is the subject of the sentence and has to precede information about where it arrives:

(6_S) *V Celje pride (V) vlak (S) ob 3. uri in potniki gredo skupno k sv. Jožefu, kjer bode kratka pobožnost.*

- (6_E) The train (S) arrives (V) in Celje at 3 a.m. and the visitors will go together to St. Joseph's, where there will be a short service.

In example 7 the basic word order of the original is retained, but to achieve this, the initial prepositional phrase becomes the subject of the sentence and the Slovene subject becomes the object in the English translation:

- (7_S) *Pri projektu Pierre Auger sodelujejo (V) tudi slovenski strokovnjaki (S) z Univerze v Novi Gorici.*

- (7_E) The Pierre Auger Project (S) also involves (V) Slovene scientists (O) from the University of Nova Gorica.

One point relating to word order at the micro level: *also* tends to precede the verb in English – for example, ‘means also’ gets 560,000 hits in Google, whereas ‘also means’ gets 18.7 million. However, in many contexts *tudi* is used for emphasis in Slovene in a way that *also* is not in English and so it can be omitted during translation.

The final example in this section, a heading from a book about tea, involves a VOS pattern, which would be highly marked in English:

- (8_S) Kako pijejo (V) čaj (O) Kitajci (S)

- (8_E) How the Chinese (S) drink (V) tea (O)

3.2 The object is in initial position

Where the Slovene sentence begins with the object of the verb, the English sentence is likely to begin in the same way only if the passive is called for. In the first example, from a tourist leaflet, we find the pattern direct object, subject, verb, adverbial. In the translation, a change of word order is required:

- (9_S) *Sedanjo značilno podobo (O) je grad (S) dobil (V) sredi 16. stoletja.*

- (9_E) The castle (S) acquired (V) its current characteristic appearance (O) in the mid-sixteenth century.

Here, because of the inanimate subject, we would not use the passive (*was acquired by the castle). By contrast, in example 10 the passive can be used, so the word order does not change apart from the time adverbial, which moves to initial

position to frame the sentence (see further examples below), and the object becomes the subject:

(10_S) *Sprva renesančno stavbo (O), ki so jo postavili (V) grofje Szechyji, so v 18. stoletju baročno prezidali grofje Szaparyji.*

(10_E) In the eighteenth century, the original Renaissance building (S) built (V_{pass}) by the Counts of Széchy was rebuilt in Baroque style by the Counts of Szapáry.

In the next example, an OVS pattern in the original becomes SVO in the translation. This also contributes to cohesion in English, since the subject of the sentence (the famous eighteenth century beekeeping expert Anton Janša) is given information:

(11_S) *Gojenje čebel (O) je spremenil (V) v gospodarsko proizvajalno panogo: oskrboval je veliko število panjev, dosegal visoke pridelke medu in voska.*

(11_E) He (S) turned (V) bee-keeping (O) into a commercial enterprise: he tended a large number of hives, achieving high yields of honey and wax.

Translation note: the imperfective verbs *oskrbovati* and *dosegati* are translated by the Past Simple; inexperienced translators often draw a false analogy between imperfective verb forms in Slovene and Continuous forms in English. Note also the use of the non-finite verb form 'achieving' in the final clause (instead of, for instance, 'and achieved'); such non-finite forms tend to be under-represented in English translations from Slovene.

The next rather complex example, from an opinion piece, where the given information at the start of the Slovene sentence, which refers to the preceding text (describing online attacks, originating from Slovenia, on former President Türk's possible candidature for UN Secretary-General), is moved to the end of the clause:

(12_S) *Tovrstnih ravnanj (O) v dvomilijonski Sloveniji, ki bi morala ceniti vsak preboj 'naših' v mednarodne institucije, nikoli nisem in nikoli ne bom razumel (V), zato o tem vedno znova tudi pišem.*

(12_E) I (S) have never been able to understand (V) and never shall why our small country with its two million inhabitants, which should be celebrating every success of 'our people' in international institutions, would stoop to such actions (O), and that is why I keep revisiting this topic.

The only way that a similar word order could be retained in English would be through the use of the passive, but this is unlikely here because the writer is expressing a personal opinion. In another example from the same article, what is emphasised at the beginning in Slovene is once again placed at the end in the translation:

(13_S) *Da dr. Türk 'ni dober kandidat' za mesto Generalnega sekretarja OZN (O), je po tem, ko je nekdanji predsednik Republike Slovenije najavil načelno pripravljenost kandidirati, namignil (V) odhajajoči veleposlanik ZDA v Sloveniji, g. Joseph Mussomelli (sic) (S).*

(13_E) After the former president of Slovenia announced his willingness to run, the outgoing US Ambassador to Slovenia, Joseph Mussomelli (S), implied (V) that Türk was 'not a good candidate' for the position of Secretary-General of the UN (O).

The final example in this section, from a newspaper opinion column, about relations between Russia on the one hand and the EU and US on the other, is a good illustration of how what is achieved through declension in Slovene is achieved by word order in English. The Slovene reader knows that the Americans are the object and the Russians the subject from the endings, but the English reader deduces this from the word order, with the subject preceding the object:

(14_S) *Američane (O) bi Rusi (S) lahko bolj ponižali (V) samo, če bi pripravili, da pridejo na Krim.*

(14_E) The Russians (S) could humiliate (V) the Americans (O) even more only by convincing them to come to the Crimea. [for a meeting of the G8]

3.3 Sentences beginning with a verb

Where a reflexive verb is in initial position in Slovene, the English translation will place the subject before the verb, as in this example connected with the history of Italian fashion:

(15_S) *Uveljavljati so se začeli (V) njeni ustvarjalci in ustvarjalke (S), ki so kot blagovne znamke še danes ultimativni pojem za modo Made in Italy.*

(15_E) Its designers (S) started to make (V) a name for themselves and they have to this day remained the ultimate trademarks for the fashion labelled as *Made in Italy*.

Translation note: in many contexts *uveljaviti se* can also be translated by ‘become established’ or ‘make one’s mark’.

In minutes of meetings there is frequent use of sentences such as the one below that begin with a passive form in Slovene, but where the passive verb in English occurs in final position:

(16_S) *Sprejeti so bili* (V_{pass}) spodaj predlagani sklepi (O).

(16_E) The following resolutions (S) were passed (V_{pass}).

And in media reports about meetings, sentences with an initial verb are common – in this case in a headline – while the translation is likely to involve a passive form:

(17_S) *Razpravljali so o možnostih sodelovanja avtomobilske in letalske industrije*

(17_E) Possible cooperation between the automotive and airline industries was discussed

Another common pattern in Slovene involving an initial verb can be seen in example 18, where the translation involves the empty subject *it*:

(18_S) *Omeniti je potrebno, da je brez tega aparata včasih težko ugotovljati, ali gre za pravo ali le za navidezno ploskost.*

(18_E) It should be mentioned that without this device it is sometimes hard to ascertain whether it is real or only apparent flat-footedness.

In many kinds of formal functional texts an active form in Slovene is likely to be translated by a passive form in English. In example 19, from a museum text, the first person plural verb is translated using the passive so that the object from the Slovene sentence becomes the subject of the English one and the initial prepositional phrase is placed after the noun:

(19_S) *Iz Emone poznamo (V) večje število bronastih, t.i. čebulastih sponk (O), ki so včasih tudi pozlačene.*

(19_E) A large number of bronze, sometimes gilded, crossbow fibulae (S) from Emona have been found (V_{pass}).

3.4 Relocation of clause adverbials

3.4.1 Medial adverbials

As already indicated, Slovene medial position adverbs very frequently need to be relocated during translation, usually to initial position. This often involves sentence framing time adverbials, as in examples 20 to 25:

(20_S) *Po ukazu Vojnega ministrstva je bil Cvetko 13. septembra 1916 premeščen v pohodni bataljon 16. pehotnega polka v Bjelovar.*

(20_E) *On 13th September 1916, in line with an order from the Ministry of War, Cvetko was transferred to the infantry battalion of the 16th infantry regiment in Bjelovar.*

(21_S) *Slovenski odbor je konec leta 2013 štel 135 članov, od tega 13 institucionalnih.*

(21_E) *At the end of 2013 the Slovene National Committee comprised 135 members, 13 of them institutional.*

Translation note: the word *leto* can usually be omitted (at the end of *the year 2013).

(22_S) *Vitrine Kranjskega deželnega muzeja so bile konec 19. stoletja dodobra napolnjene s tisoči železnodobnih in rimskih najdb, ki jih je izkopal zlasti na Dolenjskem in v Beli krajini.*

(22_E) *In the late nineteenth century the display cases of the Carniolan Provincial Museum were filled with thousands of Iron Age and Roman finds he had excavated, particularly in the Lower Carniola and White Carniola regions.*

Translation note: *konec ... stoletja* is usually best translated by ‘in the late ... century’ and *začetek ... stoletja* by ‘in the early ... century’.

(23_S) *Dunajski pohištveni umetniki so v tem času razvili svojo različico empirskega sloga, ki je bila intimnejša, namenjena tudi meščanskim domovom in je v dvajsetih letih 19. stoletja neopazno prešla v znameniti elegantni dunajski bidermajer.*

- (23_E) In this period Viennese furniture makers developed their own variant of the Empire style, which was more intimate, intended also for bourgeois homes, and in the 1820s this imperceptibly transitioned into the famously elegant Vienna Biedermeier style.

Translation note: expressions like *dvajsetih letih 19. stoletja* are most simply translated by ‘the 1820s’.

- (24_S) *Njegova poklicna pot izraža že zelo zgodaj edinstvene poteze.*

- (24_E) Even at a very early stage his career path displayed unique features.

- (25_S) *Fizičen upor ulic v zadnjih desetletjih nikakor ni izgubil pomena.*

- (25_E) In recent decades, physical resistance on the streets has by no means lost its significance.

In the first sentence below the adverbial in the second dependent clause is relocated, as well as the medial adverbial in the second sentence:

- (26_S) *Iz ohranjenih fotografij in ob dražbi popisane grajskega inventarja je mogoče razbrati, da je bil grad v prvi tretjini 20. stoletja še bogato opremljen, zlasti reprezentančni prostori. Stene in strop glavnega salona so po sredini 18. stoletja dobili rokokojsko zaznamovano iluzionistično arhitekturno in alegorično poslikavo v nežnih pastelnih barvah.*

- (26_E) From the preserved photographs and the inventory prepared for the auction, it can be established that in the first three decades of the twentieth century the manor house was still richly furnished, especially the reception rooms. In the second half of the eighteenth century the walls and ceiling of the main salon acquired Rococo-style illusionist architectural and allegorical painting in gentle pastel shades.

Translation note: very often *grad* is not ‘castle’ but ‘manor house’, as here, or ‘mansion’, e.g. *Cekinov grad* – Cekin Mansion; it depends on the style of building.

In example 27, the medial adverbial is followed by a related relative clause that also moves to earlier in the sentence:

- (27_S) *Italijanska moda kot svetovno najbolj reprezentativni primer mode je bila v petdesetih letih 20. stoletja, ko se je življenje po končani drugi svetovni vojni normaliziralo, na začetku svojega razcveta.*

- (27_E) In the 1950s, when post-World War Two life had normalised, Italian fashion as the most illustrious example of fashion in the world was just starting to flourish.

In this slightly different example the underlined prepositional phrase, which is the subject of the clause, moves to sentence initial position following the empty subject *it*:

- (28_S) *Od začetkov boja za pravice žensk je preteklo že precej več kot dobro stoletje in do danes se je že kar nekaj pogumnih moških vključilo v zagovornišтво enakosti spolov.*

- (28_E) It is well over a century since the start of the fight for women's rights and a number of brave men have participated in the advocacy of gender equality.

In the next example, other word order changes are required in addition to relocating the medial adverbial; because of this shift, the translation of the phrase *in so še vedno* has to be placed in a separate clause not governed by the adverbial:

- (29_S) *Slovenski čebelarji so bili že pred Janševim obdobjem in so še vedno med vodilnimi svetovni strokovnjaki na svojem področju.*

- (29_E) Even before Janša's time Slovene bee-keepers were among the leading world experts in their field and they still are today.

Translation note: temporal expressions involving *že* are frequently translated using 'even' or 'as early as', rather than 'already'.

In example 30, the medial adverb relocates to frame the sentence, while the parenthetical phrase moves to final position:

- (30_S) *Okupatorji so med vojno zaprli, največ v gestapovsko kaznilnico v Begunjah, okoli 300 Bohinjcev.*

- (30_E) During the war, the Axis forces imprisoned around 300 people from Bohinj, mostly in the Gestapo prison in Begunje.

Examples 31 to 35 involve non-temporal adverbs of location, comparison or manner:

- (31_S) *Mojca Turk pri svojem delu ničesar ne prepušča naključju.*

- (31_E) In her work, Mojca Turk leaves nothing to chance.

(32_S) *Moški se danes sicer v večji meri vključujejo v skrb za otroke v primerjavi s prejšnjimi generacijami, pri čemer številni poskušajo z enakopravnim očetovanjem presegati tradicionalne spolne vloge in dosežati večjo enakost v partnerstvu.*

(32_E) It is true that, in comparison with previous generations, today's men play a more active role in childcare and many of them undertake equal parenting to transcend the traditional gender roles, thus achieving greater equality in their partnership.

Translation note: in many contexts, such as here, a useful translation equivalent for the verb *presežati* is 'transcend' (rather than the frequently inappropriately used 'surpass').

(33_S) *Nekdanji predsednik SLS, ki so mu očitali, da je zase poskrbel v Bruslju, stranko pa pahnil iz parlamenta, je sodeč po zadnjih aktivnostih zagovornik uporabe sklada za prilagajanje globalizaciji, ki ga nekatere države s pridom izkoriščajo.*

(33_E) Judging from his latest activities, the former president of the Slovene People's Party, who was reproached with having saved his own skin in Brussels while pushing the party out of Parliament, is an advocate for using the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, which certain countries are benefiting from.

(34_S) *O razsežnosti 'klikativističnih' akcij v primeru Gaze priča visoka frekvenca objav na spletnih medijih, predvsem na Twitterju.*

(34_E) In the case of Gaza, the scope of 'clicktivist' campaigns can be observed in the frequency of posts on social media, especially Twitter.

(35_S) *Nemci so kot povračilni ukrep po partizanskih napadih streljali ujetnike iz gestapovske kaznilnice v Begunjah.*

(35_E) In retaliation for partisan attacks, the Germans shot the prisoners in the Gestapo prison in Begunje.

In this example, from a text about Trubar, the adverbial phrase is transformed into a noun phrase followed by an inserted verb (*claim*), while the initial information occurs after the main subject and verb:

(36_S) *Za osnovo slovenskega knjižnega jezika je po novi teoriji vzela ljubljanski mestni govor, po starejši pa domače dolenjsko narečje.*

(36_E) *A new theory claims that he used the local urban dialect of Ljubljana as the basis for standard Slovene, whereas according to the older theory it was his native Lower Carniolan dialect.*

(Another possible translation would be: ‘he took as the basis of the standard Slovene language the urban speech of Ljubljana’.)

3.4.2 Initial adverbials

Sometimes a prepositional or adverbial phrase in initial position may move during translation to final position:

(37_S) *V partizanih so ostali le Tomaž Godec, Avgust Gašperin, Valentin Sušnik, Alojz Pintar in Viktor Žnidar.*

(37_E) *Only Tomaž Godec, Avgust Gašperin, Valentin Sušnik, Alojz Pintar and Viktor Žnidar remained with the Partisans.*

As indicated earlier, in tourism texts in English, the norm is to indicate where we are first (with a locational adverbial) and then what we are looking at:

(38_S) *Kot odprto knjigo gledamo Bohinj z Vodnikovega razglednika nad Koprivnikom.*

(38_E) *From the Vodnik Viewpoint above the village of Koprivnik, we can look down on Bohinj as on an open book.*

In example 38, from a promotional text, the order of the sentence is reversed, with the initial adverbial following the imperative verb and prepositional object:

(39_S) *V spremlstvu dragocenih darov iz »eksotičnih« dežel se podajte na vznemirljivo popotovanje!*

(39_E) *Embark on an exciting voyage in the company of these precious gifts from “exotic” lands!*

In the next example, too, about violence during World War II, the order of elements is almost reversed, while the third person plural form in Slovene is translated by a passive verb:

(40_S) *Kot grešne kozle, ki naj bi izdali bataljon, so umorili družino Strgar*

(40_E) The Strgar family, who it was said had betrayed the battalion, were murdered as scapegoats

Translation note: the pattern *naj bi* can be translated in a wide variety of ways in addition to the often ambiguous ‘supposed to’, for example: ‘it is said/thought/believed/claimed/considered/supposed that’; ‘is/are thought/believed/considered... to have/be’; ‘allegedly/supposedly’.

In example 40, from a text about Giuseppe Tartini, the information conveyed by the initial locational adverb is new information, which needs to go at the end of the clause in English:

(41_S) *V Padovi je bil glasbeni vodja v cerkvi sv. Antona in prav v tem mestu ustanovil violinsko šolo, v katero so zahajali najboljši učenci iz vseh krajev Evrope.*

(41_E) He was concert master at the Church of St Anthony in Padua, where he established a violin school attended by the most promising pupils from across Europe.

3.4.3 Final adverbials

In this example, the fact that the subject was killed is surely more ‘newsworthy’ than where this occurred:

(42_S) *A že 30. avgusta je ruska granata pretrgala nit njegovega življenja pri Pžemislanih.*

(42_E) But on 30 August, near Peremyshliany, a Russian grenade ended his life.

The time adverbial in example 42 (about Gorenjska) relocates to the beginning to frame the sentence:

- (43_S) *Njena naravna bogastva so omogočala gospodarski razvoj od prve prisotnosti človeka vse do danes: lov, železarstvo, rudarstvo, gozdarstvo, kmetijstvo, turizem.*
- (43_E) *Ever since man first moved here its natural riches have facilitated economic development: hunting, iron-making, mining, forestry, farming and tourism.*

3.5 Location of adjectives

Micro-level word order changes will take place when an attributive adjectival phrase involving a participle in Slovene has to be translated by a predicative adjective in English:

- (44_S) *Ponovno ju bodo igrali 2. junija, ob 156-letnici Elgarjevega rojstva, v njemu posvečenem muzeju.*
- (44_E) *They will be played again on 2 June, on the 156th anniversary of Elgar's birth, in the museum dedicated to him.*

It is quite common in Slovene to begin a sentence with an adjective, as in: *Zanimiv/pomemben/žalosten/posrečen je, da...* Such patterns have to be translated into English using a cleft sentence: 'It is interesting/important/sad/fortunate that...'

4 CONCLUSION

The differences between word order in Slovene and English should be constantly borne in mind when translating between the two languages. The need for a change in word order may be signalled by a Slovene sentence or clause where the verb precedes the subject, where the object is in initial position or which begins with a verb. When translating into English, it is thus essential to analyse the Slovene sentence or clause (in the case of a complex sentence) and identify in particular the main verb and the subject, followed by any objects, predicates and adverbials – including those which give a temporal, locational or other 'frame' to the sentence and may need to go in initial position. Another clue may be provided by given-new information patterns: where new information is found at the start of the sentence, then a change of word order is likely. As far as adverbials are concerned, those in medial position almost always have to be relocated – usually to initial position. In the case of initial or final adverbs, it depends very much

on the context and the role that the adverbial plays in the sentence. However, word order in Slovene and English are governed by the same basic principles, so a sound piece of advice when translating from Slovene into English is to change the word order only when you know why you are doing so. Unmotivated changes or those made because 'it sounds better' are likely to make the reader's task much more difficult.

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