An Ancient Translation

Lexical and cultural aspects in a text about the Lullingstone Roman Villa

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Abstract

This study deals with the translation of the second part of the English Heritage guidebook *Lullingstone Roman Villa* (2009), written by Pete Wilson. The analysis focuses on the translation of terms and other vocabulary items within the fields of archaeology and architecture, as well as how to deal with cultural aspects. The theoretical framework for the analysis is based on models by Vinay & Darbelnet (1995), Newmark (1981, 1988) and Ingo (2007). The two most common translation procedures in the translation of terms and other vocabulary items were literal translation and transference. However, equivalence and omission were other procedures put to use when dealing with lexical aspects. When it comes to the translation of references to cultural aspects, alterations are sometimes needed in order to adapt the target text to its target group. Consequently, Vinay & Darbelnet’s adaptation procedure was put to use in a number of cases. However, the most common way of translating cultural aspects was in the form of couplets (Newmark 1988:91), more precisely transference of certain proper nouns coupled with a functional or descriptive equivalent, out of which the former was most common. Various forms of additions were also used in several cases, and an omission was put to use in one particular case. Throughout the translation process, parallel texts proved to be of great help.

Keywords: translation, terminology, cultural aspects, archaeology, architecture
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1 Introduction

"The process of translation between two different written languages involves the translator changing an original written text (the source text or ST) in the original verbal language (the source language or SL) into a written text (the target text or TT) in a different verbal language (the target language or TL)" (Munday 2008:5).

The process described above in the words of theorist Jeremy Munday, is a process that has been practised all over the world for several thousands of years. Translation is an important part of human communication. The need to translate texts is fundamental for society, since it enables written messages to reach a far wider group of people. In this process, the translator plays an important part.

During the translation process, the translator is faced with numerous challenges of various kinds depending on the nature of the source text (henceforth ST). It is impossible for the translator to know in advance what to expect since every text is unique. What is more, translation theories are constantly evolving and changing. The ongoing debate amongst theorists focuses on whether to take a free or literal approach when translating. In general, a free approach is favoured nowadays in which focus is put on conveying the sense, rather than form and style, when translating from one language to another (Ingo 2007:76). A literal translation can sometimes result in an incomprehensible text due to differences between the two languages' structural patterns. However, if possible, a literal translation should always be the translator's first choice; as described by theorists Vinay & Darbelnet "literalness should only be sacrificed because of structural and metalinguistic requirements and only after checking that the meaning is fully preserved" (Vinay & Darbelnet 1995:288).

In this study focus lies on how to deal with some of the difficulties encountered when translating a tourist text incorporating the subject fields of archaeology, architecture and history. In translation of a text that contains a great deal of information connected to different subject fields, it is of great importance to find the proper target language (henceforth TL) equivalents of ST terms and other vocabulary items frequently used in the particular fields. The lexical items in the ST carry semantic meanings that should be conveyed into the TL. Various challenges related to this aspect will be discussed and analysed in this study.

In addition to lexical matters, another issue of interest is cultural aspects. Tourist texts and texts on a country's national history often contain various cultural references that are easily understood by the original target readers, but that might need some adjustments in order to
suit a new target group. The nature of these adjustments varies depending on the example in question. How to deal with the translation of references to cultural phenomena, as for instance geographical places and public institutions, is a matter that will be analysed further in this study.

The aim of this study will be presented below. Thereafter, the translation process and various aids will be commented on, followed by a presentation of the ST and some comments on the target text (henceforth TT). A theoretical background will then be given where translation theory relevant to this study will be presented. An account and analysis of the results of this study will follow, and finally a summary of all findings constitutes the final section.

1.1 Aim

The aim of this study is to analyse how to deal with some of the difficulties occurring when translating, from English into Swedish, a selection of pages in the guidebook *Lullingstone Roman Villa* by Pete Wilson. More precisely, the following aspects are in focus:

- Terms and other vocabulary items within the fields of archaeology and architecture
- The translation of references to cultural phenomena

In this study, the translation strategies that have been used in relation to the above mentioned aspects will be analysed and discussed.

1.2 Method

In order to obtain data for this study, the first step was to translate the ST from English into Swedish. During the translation process notes were made of any difficulties encountered and some of the main challenges of the ST were identified. The second step was then to identify and categorise the strategies employed in the handling of the aspects brought up under “Aim” above.

While translating the ST various aids were used, such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias, parallel texts etc. Encyclopaedias proved to be an invaluable aid in obtaining definitions and explanations of certain terms, in order to find a semantic correspondent in the TL. Moreover, they proved useful when additional information was needed in order to ensure a correct understanding of the ST. *Oxford Reference Online*, *Britannica Online* and *Nationalencyklopedin* were most frequently used. Dictionaries were yet another invaluable source during the translation process; online dictionaries such as *Norstedts engelska ord* and
Oxford English Dictionary were used when dealing with terminology as well as with unknown words and expressions. As the ST contains terminology from several subject fields, a number of different parallel texts had to be consulted since not all terms were listed, or sufficiently explained, in general dictionaries and encyclopaedias. Various publications from archaeology societies, for instance Labrandasällskapet, as well as texts on the website of Riksaltikvarieåmbetet (Swedish National Heritage Board) were very important aids in order to find out what kind of terms and other vocabulary items that normally appear in Swedish texts on the subject of interest. In addition, a number of publications from the Institute of Classical Archaeology and Ancient History at Lund University proved to be some of the main sources of information as well. All the above mentioned parallel texts as well as the search engine Google were useful aids when comparing the frequency of different translation alternatives.

During the second step in obtaining data, mentioned in the beginning of this section, translation theory was studied in order to create a basis and framework for the analysis. The strategies applied in this study were identified and categorised. Theoretical models by Vinay & Darbelnet, Newmark and Ingo all proved useful in this context. These models will be presented in detail in the section Background Theory.

1.3 Material
As mentioned previously, the material used for this study is a selection of pages from the English Heritage guidebook Lullingstone Roman Villa, written by Pete Wilson and published in 2009. The guidebook is divided into two sections, The Tour followed by History. For this study, all pages included in the section History were translated as well as a number of fact sheets accompanying the main text. The series of guidebooks published by English Heritage are all written by leading experts and contain “site tours, and a history of the property and people who lived and worked there” (english-heritage.org.uk).

Since the ST tells us the history of the Lullingstone villa and how it has changed throughout the centuries, much of the text deals with archaeology, architecture and history. Also, the information presented often incorporates references to British society, geography and history. Consequently, the ST is not a typical easygoing tourist text. What is more, it is written in such a way that it is often presumed that the reader does not need additional explanations of terms and other vocabulary items, which makes the academic level of the text quite high.

The ST could be categorised as an informative text (Reiss in Munday 2008:72) since its purpose is to convey information about the Lullingstone Roman villa to its reader.
When it comes to the target readers of the ST, these presumably comprise people visiting the actual site of the villa as well as people purchasing the ST online, may it be for professional use or simply for fun. Considering the academic nature of the text, the text would be of interest in a professional context as well, and therefore students and professionals in the fields of archaeology, architecture and history may be included in the target group. Furthermore, the general public with a particular interest in the subject fields mentioned above would most likely find the text enjoyable and educative at the same time.

Regarding the TT, the purpose of the text remains the same as for the ST and so does the target group, except from the fact that the new target readers are Swedish people, who belong to another culture than the original target readers.

1.4 Background Theory
In this section, the theoretical framework on which the analysis is based will be presented, followed by definitions of concepts relevant to this study.

1.4.1 Translation Theory
Although the practice of translating texts has ancient roots, translation theory as an academic subject is relatively new. It was not until the mid-twentieth century that “the study of the field developed into an academic discipline” (Munday 2008:7). As mentioned in the introduction, literal (word-for-word) translation, which dominated the field for a long time, has now been largely replaced with free (sense-for-sense) translation giving the translator more freedom when transferring the meaning of the ST into another language.

Translation theorist Peter Newmark has put forth a model largely based on the notions of semantic translation and communicative translation. More specifically, “semantic translation focuses primarily upon the semantic content of the source text and communicative translation focuses essentially upon the comprehension and response of receptors” (Newmark 1981:vii). Newmark furthermore claims that “the vast majority of texts require communicative rather than semantic translation” (ibid:44). In other words, the target readers and their role should play a significant part during the translation process of most texts. Newmark also presents several translation strategies as an aid during the translation process.

First, the strategy of transference in which a source language (henceforth SL) word is transferred to a TL text (Newmark 1988:81). Transference is commonly used when dealing with for instance geographical names, street names, names of newspapers, private companies
and public institutions, provided that no recognised translations exist (ibid:82). An example of transference as a translation process is the borrowing of the company name Apple.

A functional equivalent is commonly used in relation to cultural words and it involves using a culture-free word or a new specific term in order to neutralise or generalise the SL word (ibid:83). Newmark uses the translation of Sejm into Polish parliament as an example (ibid:83).

Descriptive equivalent is together with functional equivalent important elements "in explanation and therefore in translation" (ibid:84). The descriptive equivalent of samurai is "the Japanese aristocracy from the eleventh to the nineteenth century" (ibid:84).

A couplet is a translation strategy in which several translation procedures are combined in order to deal with a single problem (ibid:91). Couplets are commonly used in translation of cultural words, and involve, for example, transference coupled with a functional or descriptive equivalent (ibid:91). The proper noun Natural Health Magazine might be translated into Swedish by using transference and a functional equivalent, as in den brittiska hälso tidningen Natural Health Magazine.

In addition to Newmark’s model, theorists Jean-Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet have put forth a translation model that has had a great impact on translation studies. On a general plane, they suggest two methods of translating, namely direct translation and oblique translation. Direct translation involves translating the SL message literally, whereas oblique translation is used when a literal translation is regarded unacceptable, due to various reasons (Vinay & Darbelnet 1995:31, 34-35).

Borrowing is a direct translation procedure that involves borrowing a SL word or expression and using it in the TT (ibid:31-32). In translation theory, many strategies are similar but have been given different names by different theorists. The procedure involving loanwords, referred to as borrowing by Vinay & Darbelnet, is very similar to Newmark’s transference. Therefore, the company name Apple may also be categorised as a borrowing. In the translation made for the present work, the procedures that have been used are, on the whole, well described in the terms of Vinay & Darbelnet’s model. However, the specific use of loanwords has, in some cases, been combined with other strategies, in which case the resulting translation process is more efficiently described in terms of Newmark’s couplets. Consequently, in order to avoid confusion, Newmark’s term transference is used throughout the present study.

Another direct translation procedure is literal translation which simply means 'word-for-word' translation. As mentioned in the introduction, Vinay & Darbelnet stress the fact that, if
possible, a literal translation should always be the translator’s first choice (ibid:288). This is an opinion they share with Newmark: “provided that equivalent effect is secured, the literal word-for-word translation is not only the best, it is the only valid method of translation” (Newmark 1981:39). An example of a literal translation is *Maria is hungry* translated into *Maria är hungrig*.

As mentioned previously, a direct translation is not always possible, which is often due to structural and metalinguistic differences between languages. The translation process then becomes more complex and requires oblique translation (Vinay & Darbelnet 1995:31).

*Adaptation* is an oblique translation procedure which “involves changing the cultural reference when a situation in the source culture does not exist in the target culture” (cited in Munday 2008:58). The translation of the Swedish dish *surströmming* into *haggis* in a British text would be an example of adaptation.

*Equivalence* is categorised as an oblique translation procedure and refers to cases where two texts render the same situation by different stylistic or structural means (Vinay & Darbelnet 1995:38). An example taken from the translation for this study is *roadside villages* translated as *byar utmed vägarna*. The same phenomenon is described by the use of two different structural means: the ST uses a premodifying noun followed by a noun, whereas the TT uses a noun followed by a postmodifying noun phrase to convey the intended information (namely that the relevant villages are located along the roadside). Changes like these are sometimes referred to as *transpositions*. However, *transposition* is also the term used by Vinay & Darbelnet for another oblique translation procedure, namely one that involves replacing one part of speech with another without changing the meaning (ibid:36). That is, Vinay & Darbelnet use *transposition* only for changes of word class; other kinds of structural change are not explicitly referred to. Therefore, in the present study the term *equivalence* is used for structural changes of the kind discussed above.

Other translation strategies that are important in the field of translation are *additions* and *omissions*.

Additions are primarily made for pragmatic reasons. It simply means adding information not given in the ST in order to clarify or explain something further. Cultural differences between target groups are often the reason behind this procedure (Ingo 2007:123-127). An example of this is the translation of *the river Don* into *floden Don i norra England*, where the postmodifier *i norra England* has been added in order to explain something further for a different target group.
An omission means that information presented in the ST is left out in the TT. According to Ingo, the translator should use omissions with caution since they result in a loss of information and therefore must be based on well considered pragmatic reasons (ibid:124). Ingo uses the example of a Swedish text containing a very detailed description of a sauna bath, and he claims that it would be enough to render this passage simply as *he took a refreshing shower*, in a culture where saunas are not as significant as in Sweden (ibid:42-43).

1.4.2 Definitions
As mentioned in the introduction, terms and other vocabulary items, as well as cultural aspects will be analysed further in this study. Definitions of these concepts follow below.

1.4.2.1 Terms and Other Vocabulary Items
In every subject field there are technical words, *terms*, with specific meanings. They are often used between professionals in the relevant field, and may be difficult to understand for a layman. Nevertheless, these words are important carriers of information and the translator often has to put a great deal of effort into finding the correct term in the TL (Ingo 2007:224-227). *Terminology* is defined as follows: “the technical or special terms used in a business, art, science, or special subject” (merriam-webster.com).

What is more, every subject field has their own set of specific and frequently used words and expressions that cannot be categorised as terms, since they are not technical (oed.com). However, they are still used in relation to, or to describe, various phenomena closely connected to the subject fields. These words and expressions fall under the definition of *vocabulary* as “a sum or stock of words employed by a language, group, individual, or work or in a field of knowledge” (merriam-webster.com). In other words they can be categorised as “the range of language of a … profession” (oed.com). To temporarily know the vocabulary used within a specific subject field is important when translating texts (Newmark 1988:155).

1.4.2.2 Cultural Aspects
A very general way of defining *culture* is as follows: “the distinctive ideas, customs, social behaviour, products, or way of life of a particular society, people, or period” (oed.com). Moreover, *culture* is also defined as “the characteristic features of everyday existence … shared by people in a place” (merriam-webster.com). In translation theory, the importance of establishing if the ST bears any traces of the SL culture is often emphasized. Should it contain cultural words and expressions, decisions have to be made concerning additional information and explanations in order to make the TT more reader friendly (Ingo 2007:127). When
discussing the cultural context of a text, Newmark describes it in terms of “words related to ways of thinking and behaving within a particular language community” (Newmark 1988:193).

2 Analysis
This section is divided into two parts, each representing the aspects in focus of this study: terms and other vocabulary items, followed by cultural aspects.

2.1 Terms and Other Vocabulary Items
As mentioned in the introduction, the ST contains a number of archaeological and architectural terms as well as other vocabulary items closely linked to these subject fields. Literal translation and transference were the two most frequent translation procedures used during the translation process. However, equivalence and omission were other procedures put to use when dealing with lexical aspects. In the following, each strategy will be discussed in turn.

2.1.1 Transference
In this section, transference as a translation procedure will be analysed. Consider the following examples.

(1) A new furnace or *praefurnium* was also built, possibly replacing a smaller structure (Wilson:30).

(2) Trenches were separated by ‘baulks’ – vertical walls of archaeology left *in situ* (Wilson:38).

*Det byggdes även en ny ugn, eller praefurnium, som möjlig ersatte en mindre anläggnings.*

*Rutorna skildes åt av profilbankar, arkeologins vertikala väggar som lämnas in situ.*

The Latin terms in (1) and (2) have been transferred directly to the TT in their original form. Thereby Newmark’s translation procedure transference has been used (Newmark 1988:81-82). This procedure has been applied based on the fact that “[i]n many areas of science, Graeco-Latin terms are used for classification purposes, and in translation they serve as internationalisms” (ibid:159). That is, these terms are used in a professional context worldwide and since they are carriers of information, semantic correctness is very important (Ingo 2007:224-227).
However, the target group does not merely consist of experts. Consequently, in (1) the more general word *ugn* is included, which is most likely appreciated by a layman readership since the semantic meaning of the Latin term thereby is made clear. Yet, there are a few exceptions where no general term is provided in the ST, as in (2). In these cases, the TT follows the model of the ST. The knowledge level of the text would be altered if information was added in the TT, in order to simplify certain passages. As stated earlier, the target group of the TT remains the same as for the ST, except from the fact that they belong to different cultures. Since instances such as (2) are not in any way linked to cultural differences between target groups, where various forms of additions often are justified (Newmark 1988:47), but instead linked to the topic of the text, additions are not in place. Had the TT been aimed at a completely different target group than that of the original, as, for instance, school children between the ages of 15 and 18, the handling of Latin terms would have required a different approach and additions of information would have been necessary. However, since this is not the case, the knowledge level of the ST has been kept in the TT. When translating terms, "[y]ou ensure equivalent level of register by transferring standardised Latin and/or Greek terms" (ibid:160).

### 2.1.2 Literal Translation

Many terms and other vocabulary items in the ST were translated through the use of literal translation (Vinay & Darbelnet 1995:33-34). Some of the TL equivalents were listed in dictionaries, or frequently used in several parallel texts, wherefore they did not pose any great challenges. The architectural term in (3) below is an example of such an equivalent.

(3) the wall-paintings in the house-church  
Däremit är vägsmålningarna i 
set the villa apart (Wilson:25).  
huskyrkan något som utmärker villan

However, many terms and other vocabulary items proved to be much more challenging to translate. Terminology is usually not included in general dictionaries. What is more, in several cases it also proved difficult to find the TL equivalents in parallel texts. Still, a great deal of the translation process consisted of consulting a variety of parallel texts since they nevertheless often do provide the translator with the proper vocabulary (Chesterman & Wagner 2002:73). In several cases, such parallel texts did, after all, prove to be of great importance. A number of TL equivalents in the TT are based solely on use in a few, specific parallel texts. What is more, experts within the field of archaeology were consulted in relation to one particular case, exemplified in (4) below.
(4) Trenches were separated by ‘baulks’ – vertical walls of archaeology left in situ (Wilson:38).

Rutorna skildes åt av profilbankar, arkeologins vertikala väggar som lämnas in situ.

The archaeological term baulks in (4) is not listed in general dictionaries. Instead the English word balk is presented as an option, for which several semantic equivalents are given in the TL (see, ord.se). However, none of these agreed with the archaeological context in the ST, or with the definition of the term baulk given on oxford reference.com\(^1\). Therefore, a considerable number of parallel texts were consulted and a few possible alternatives were found. Thereafter, archaeologists working at Riksantikvarieämnet were contacted, in order to ensure that the proper term was chosen. Riksantikvarieämnet is an agency responsible for heritage and historic environment issues in Sweden (raa.se). The information given by their archaeologists, presented by Gun Larsson, motives the translation of baulks into the Swedish term profilbankar. Furthermore, a Google search on profilbankar arkeologi, exemplifies several texts in which this term is used, and the contexts in which it appears show full agreement with the English definition mentioned above (see, Riksantikvarieämnet: Lilla Karby and Abbetorp). As seen in (4), in order to find the correct semantic equivalent of a term or word, the context of a text is crucial (cf. Newmark 1981:27). What is more, the consultation of parallel texts as well as of experts on the subject of interest is an important aid that is often required when translating texts (ibid:185).

Another term that proved difficult to translate because of non-presence in general dictionaries was cover building, as in example (5):

(5) the cover building opened to the public in 1963 (Wilson:38).

år 1963, kunde utställningsbyggnaden öppnas för allmänheten.

In the search for a TL equivalent that conveyed the semantic meaning of the architectural term in (5), dictionaries did not offer much aid since – as was the case with baulk – this term is not listed. However, some of the equivalents listed for cover, for instance täcka, skydda (ord.se), imply that the characteristic of this type of building might be that it is protected from the outside in some way. In a Google search, the compound noun cover building can be found in only one website, and it is used when referring to buildings where grain, salt, sand etc. is

\(^1\)“An artificial wall of unexcavated archaeological deposits left standing between the trenches of an excavation in order to provide access to the working areas and preserve until the last possible moment a sample of the stratigraphy for study and recording” (oxfordreference.com).
being stored (asicoverbuildings.com). The emphasis put on these buildings as *covered*
buildings – in other words, as having roofs – is very clear as the text explains, for instance,
why these grain buildings are superior to outside grain piles. What is more, another
characteristic of these cover buildings is the material used in their construction, as they are
steel framed and covered by fabric. The TL equivalents of the cover buildings described at the
above mentioned website would be *tälthall, lagerhall* etc. (pmh.se). However, regarding the
cover building in the ST, its function, its building materials and the context in which it
appears are all factors that show no agreement with these TL equivalents. Therefore, another
solution had to be sought.

One characteristic that seems to agree well with the circumstances described in the ST, on
the other hand, is that the building is protected from the outside in some way. Before this
building existed, visitors toured the excavation site outdoors. The cover building made it
possible for visitors to see the remains of the villa and its findings indoors, and the function of
this building is therefore similar to an exhibition hall. In fact, some years after the English
Heritage’s decision that the long-term preservation and display of the site must be ensured;
the cover building was built and opened to the public. Based on the information given in the
ST, the main function of this building seems to be that of an exhibition hall. In summary,
there seem to be two aspects to consider as regards the compound *cover building*: on the one
hand the semantic aspect of the component words, and, on the other hand, the more pragmatic
aspect of what the compound actually stands for – namely a building whose function is
similar to that of an exhibition hall.

If focusing solely on the semantic meaning of the component words, equivalents such as
*övertäckt byggnad* or *skyddsbyggnad* seem to be alternatives to use in the TT. However,
*skyddsbyggnad* is used in a completely different context in the target culture. *Övertäckt
byggnad* would convey that it is a *covered* building, but it does not convey the semantic
meaning of a building where people enter to visit an exhibition, nor is it used in similar
contexts.

If instead focusing on what the main function of this building seems to be, the TL term
*utställningsbyggnad* would convey this function. This term is used in the architectural
magazines *Arkitektur* and *Byggmästaren*, and it is also put to use in a historical text
(algutsbodahembygdsforening.se). Furthermore, it is not crucial to explicitly state that the
exhibition is in a *covered* building, since this is a fact that is most likely automatically inferred
by readers, since most exhibition halls are in fact *covered* buildings. To sum up, the use of
utställningsbyggnad was considered the most suitable way of “informing the reader effectively and appropriately” (Newmark 1981:38).

Moving on, some of the translation processes resulting in a literal translation posed even greater challenges, due to various factors. Two of these will now be exemplified and analysed. Consider the following example.

(6) It was a type of villa commonly found in Britain – a so-called winged-corridor house (Wilson:25).

Detta var den typ av villa som vanligtvis fanns i Britannien: ett flygförsett korridorhus.

The architectural term winged corridor villa is defined as: “[s]tyle of Roman house in which a corridor or verandah runs along the front of the building giving access to rooms in the main range and linking to a pair of flanking wings, one at either end“ (oxfordreference.com). After having consulted a great number of parallel texts, it was clear to me that no established translation of the architectural term in (6), equivalent in meaning to that of the ST, seems to exist in the TL. As a result, there was no equivalent term that could be used in the TT based on usage in Swedish parallel texts. Therefore, another solution had to be found and dictionaries were consulted in order to establish if they could be of any aid in the search of a TL equivalent. Regarding the word winged, there was a similar phrase to that of the ST listed: “a winged house”, with the TL equivalent flygförsett (ord.se). As seen from the definition of flygel, “sidobyggnad till större hus vanl. vinkelrätt mot detta” (ne.se), the intended semantic meaning of the ST term is conveyed by flygförsett. What is more, this adjective is used in an architectural context in Swedish texts, as for instance in flygförsett entrébyggnad (borgholmsslott.se).

Once the adjective flygförsett had been settled on, the remaining part of the ST term was to be rendered in the TL. The compound noun korridorhus appeared in one parallel text. It refers to the House of Tiles in Lerna, Greece (ne.se). Further research showed that this house has a similar shape to that of Lullingstone, a rectangular building with a balcony or verandah along the front, or back, of the building (britannica.com). The compound noun korridorhus can thereby be put to use in the TT, since it refers to a similarly shaped building. The full intended semantic meaning of the ST term could be conveyed by the creation of a simple description in the TL, namely ett flygförsett korridorhus. The adjective so called was omitted since ett flygförsett korridorhus is not a generally established way of referring to this type of Roman villa in the TL, but merely a simple description.
Contrary to the previous example, two established translations were found in parallel texts in relation to example (7), and these will now be further analysed.

(7) In 1939 members of the Darent Valley Archaeological Research Group found roof tiles and tesserae from a floor in disturbed ground where a tree had blown down (Wilson:36).

År 1939 hittade medlemmar ur den arkeologiska forskningsgruppen Darent Valley Archaeological Research Group tesserae från ett golv samt taktegel i störd mark vid ett träd som hade blåst ner.

The adjective disturbed and the noun ground have many TL equivalents (ord.se). Parallel texts were consulted in order to establish if some of the equivalents appeared as expressions in an archaeological context. Vinay & Darbelnet stress the importance of parallel texts and the “[c]omparison of texts dealing with identical or parallel situations” (Vinay & Darbelnet 1995:44). Two different ways of referring to similar situations were found – one that included one of the TL equivalents, and one that included two (raa.se). Since more than one expression was in use in parallel texts, these two had to be examined closely before choosing the most appropriate one for the situation described in (7). The definition of ground is “[t]he surface of the earth” (oed.com). When compared to the definition of jord: “lös, finfördelad massa av organiskt och oorganiskt material som bildats ovanpå den fasta berggrunden” (ne.se), it becomes evident that the latter one is a more detailed definition with a narrower semantic meaning. What is more, the definition of mark is basically identical to ground, “jordens yta” (ne.se). Thereby, definitions served as an aid to establish which word that was closest in meaning to the ST word.

When comparing störd and kringrörd, focus was put on which alternative that would be most appropriate to use in a context where the ground is disturbed by a natural event, as in the ST. The definition of röra: “bearbeta med roterande rörelse i syfte att blanda e.d.” (ne.se) and the usage in the parallel text: “var jorden kringrörd av senare tiders aktiviteter” (raa.se), imply that this expression is used in contexts referring to intentional and controlled ‘human’ actions. In order to convey the semantic meaning of disturbed as “having the settled state, order, or position interfered with” (oed.com), störd seems to be the closest alternative, “avbryta (ngn) i vila eller viss verksamhet” (ne.se). In order to convey the intended semantic message in a way that agreed with the ST context, störd mark was considered most suitable. As stated by
Newmark, "literal translation is correct and must not be avoided, if it secures referential and pragmatic equivalence to the original" (Newmark 1988:68-69).

2.1.3 Further Strategies
Whereas borrowing and literal translation were by far the most common strategies applied in the translation of terms and other vocabulary items, equivalence was another strategy put to use, and there was also one case of omission. These strategies will now be discussed, each in turn.

2.1.3.1 Equivalence
In example (8) below, no corresponding vocabulary item could be found in parallel texts. An alternative solution was therefore created through the use of Vinay & Darbelnet’s equivalence procedure, where the same situation can be rendered by using different stylistic or structural means (Vinay & Darbelnet 1995:38).

(8) Two external buildings, the granary and the mausoleum, date to this period (Wilson:30).
    Två byggnader på villans marker dateras till den här tiden, nämligen spannmålsmagasinet och mausoleet.

The noun phrase in (8) is used when referring to specific buildings in the ST. Based on the definition of external – “situated or lying outside” (oed.com) – and the semantic equivalences in bilingual dictionaries: “extern, yttre, utifrån” (ord.se), it seems reasonable to assume that the intended characteristic that these buildings have in common is that they are situated outside, or away from, something. Considering the ST, where the focus throughout the text is on the main building, the Roman villa itself, it is reasonable to assume that this is the case also in the context of the noun phrase in (8). Some other buildings mentioned in the ST, as for instance the bath house, are adjoining to the villa and cannot be characterised as external. However, a number of buildings belong to the villa estate, even though they are not physically adjoining, as for instance the granary and mausoleum mentioned in (8). The TT’s två byggnader på villans marker conveys this sense. As shown in (8), “it is in the situation of the SL text that translators have to look for a solution” (Vinay & Darbelnet 1995:255) when creating equivalences. Två byggnader på villans marker agrees with the context of the ST and what it describes. The ST noun phrase consists of an attributive adjective and a head noun, while the TT noun phrase is made up of a head noun and a postmodifying prepositional phrase.
2.1.3.2 Omission

Omission as a translation procedure was used in the context of one specific situation in the ST. Consider examples (9) and (10).

(9) At some point in the fifth century there was a fire at Lullingstone, and the villa-house appears to have been abandoned (Wilson:34).

(10) Additional rooms were built on the northern side of the villa-house (Wilson:28).

Fler rum byggdes på den norra sidan av huset.

When it comes to the word villa-house, it was omitted from the TT and replaced by either villa, as in (9), or hus, as in (10). Villa-hus, a literal translation of the ST compound, does not appear in dictionaries or parallel texts and is therefore not an established word. What is more, villa-house is interchangeable with villa or house. This is, for instance, clear from the fact that villa is used in the ST in the immediate context of (9) – more precisely in the preceding heading: The end of the villa. In other words, both villa and villa-house are used when referring to the same building as existing at the exact same point in time. Therefore, villa-house does not seem to have a specific semantic meaning that needs to be conveyed, nor does it add anything to the ST that would be lost when rendered as villa or hus in the TT. These are factors that should always be well considered when something is omitted from the ST (Ingo 2007:124). Based on the reasons above, villa-house was omitted from the TT. In (9), the architectural term villa was put to use and thereby transferred into the TT. As mentioned in section 2.1.1, Graeco-Latin terms in the area of science are normally transferred into the TL. As seen in parallel texts, the partly Latin / partly Italian term villa is frequently used in the TL when referring to Roman villas (Villorna i Tivoli, Villa San Michele).

As mentioned previously, there were also instances where villa-house was omitted and replaced by a literal translation of house, as in (10) above. In general, the decision on which alternative to use in the TT – villa or hus – depended on which ST term was used in the immediate context of the relevant text passage. In this way, the corresponding TL term could be put to use in the TT. In (10), the term house appears in the same passage when referring to the Lullingstone Roman villa, and hus was thereby chosen for the TT.
2.2 Cultural Aspects

As mentioned earlier in this study, many texts contain traces of their SL culture. When transferring these references into a new target culture, alterations are sometimes needed in order to adapt the TT to its target group. Therefore, focus on the reader is often very important when dealing with references to cultural phenomena (cf. Section 1.4). For instance, Newmark stresses the importance of making the “cultural content of the original more accessible to the reader” (Newmark 1981:43).

In the ST used for the present study, there are several cultural aspects that are linked to British geography, society, national history etc. The handling of geographical places, public institutions, national organisations, titles of works, units of measurements, significant historical events and persons will be analysed in detail in this section.

2.2.1 Adaptation

A translation procedure commonly applied on cultural aspects was adaptation. In these cases, cultural references in the ST were adapted to the target culture.

(11) One-time members of the excavation team, *Mr and Mrs R J Rook* varit medlemmar i utgrävningsteamet

(Wilson:38)

The example above, (11), illustrates differences between the source and target culture as regards forms of address. From a purely structural and semantic point of view, a literal translation of (11) is possible: *herr och fru R J Rook*. However, pragmatically it is not the most suitable alternative. Compared to most languages, Swedish is more informal regarding forms of address. While *Mr* and *Mrs* are frequently used in the English speaking world today, *herr* and *fru* would most probably be considered old-fashioned by Swedish readers. These forms represent an old-style way of addressing people and are more or less outdated today. As argued by Ingo, differences in linguistic usage between cultures are important and he claims that it is obvious that a pragmatic rather than a semantic equivalence should be used in cases such as the one exemplified in (11) (Ingo 2007:132). Consequently, a more contemporary and informal way of conveying the semantic meaning of the ST phrase was chosen in (11). The plural noun *makarna* is an alternative frequently used in Swedish texts when referring to a married couple, as shown in a Google search. What is more, checking frequency and consulting parallel texts also showed that initials of the husband’s first name are not generally
included, wherefore these were omitted in the TT. In other words, the ST phrase was adapted to the linguistic, pragmatic and structural usage of the target culture, hence *makarna Rook*.

In example (12) units of measurement, and how they might differ between cultures, will be further analysed.

(12) which crosses the Darent valley som går igenom dalgången Darent, 
    *five miles* north of Lullingstone. *cirka åtta km norr* om Lullingstone.  
    (Wilson:26)

In translation of units of measurement, difficulties may arise (Ingo 2007:131). As seen in (12), two different systems of measurement are being used: the imperial system and the metric system respectively. According to Newmark, measures and figures should be converted to TL units “where appropriate” (Newmark 1988:11). Moreover, he argues that the translation of units of measurement depends much on the implied readership (ibid:217). Since the target readers in this case belong to a culture where a different system than that of the SL is used, an adaptation to the target culture seems appropriate. What is more, it is reasonable to assume that most Swedish readers are not that familiar with the imperial system. Hence, *miles* have been replaced with *mil* or *kilometer*, depending on what was considered most suitable in each particular case. The figures in the TT were converted approximately and words showing estimation were therefore sometimes added, as *cirka* in (12). It would also have been possible to transfer the ST units to the TT, and include them in brackets after the metric units, or vice versa. However, it was considered unnecessary as it would not meet any particular need of the target readers. Moreover, it would upset the readability of the passage.

In (13), another example of different usage between the two cultures is analysed.

(13) Around the middle of the fourth century some remarkable changes took place (Wilson 31) 
    Omkring mitten av 300-talet skedde några anmärkningsvärda förändringar

As in (11), it is semantically and structurally possible to translate the noun phrase in (13) literally into *det fjärde århundradet*. However, from a pragmatic point of view it is not the most favourable alternative. Out of the two TL equivalents presented in dictionaries – *det fjärde århundradet* and *300-talet* – the noun *300-talet* was most frequently used in parallel texts. A Google search confirmed this finding. Consequently, an adaptation of the ST phrase was performed due to pragmatic reasons.
2.2.2 Couplet

Couplets proved to be the most common translation strategy used when dealing with cultural aspects in the ST. This finding agrees well with Newmark’s view that in the translation of cultural aspects unknown to a new culture, the most favoured procedure is “transcription, coupled with discreet explanation within the text” (Newmark 1981:83). In the present study, such “discreet explanations” are often made up of a functional or a descriptive equivalent, out of which the former was most frequently used. As expressed by Newmark, “[c]ultural components tend to be … transferred and explained with culturally neutral terms in informative texts” (Newmark 1988:47). As seen in this quote, Newmark argues that transference is most commonly coupled with a functional equivalent, a statement which agrees with the findings in this study.

2.2.2.1 Transference coupled with a functional equivalent

As mentioned above, a couplet made up of a transferred ST proper noun and a functional equivalent was the most frequent translation strategy when dealing with cultural references in the ST. Below, two examples will be analysed more closely.

(14) These events were reported by John Thorpe in Custumale Roffense, published in 1788 (Wilson:36)

De här händelserna berättar den brittiske antikvarien John Thorpe om i sitt verk Custumale Roffense som publicerades år 1788

In (14) there are two examples of transference of ST proper names coupled with functional equivalents. Most importantly, focus lies on the target readers and how to handle the ST proper names in a way that is satisfactory to the target group. First of all, John Thorpe and Custumale Roffense, nouns closely linked to British history, cannot be considered as well-known proper names in Swedish culture and therefore a cultural gap is created between the two target groups (Newmark 1988:94). If the TT were aimed only at experts on the subject, transference would most likely be enough as a translation procedure since experts’ familiarity with the ST proper names would probably be close to that of the average British reader, if not even more pronounced. However, since also TL laymen are included in the target group, additional information is in its place in accordance with Newmark’s claim that “a little-known proper name … is normally transferred with the addition of some generic information” (ibid:182). In (14), the additions consist of culturally neutral terms so that the reader can get a better understanding of the relevant names, hence den brittiske antikvarien and sitt verk

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The title of Thorpe’s work has been transferred, which is the mandatory approach when no generally accepted translation exists in the TL (Newmark 1981:154).

A very common use of transference coupled with a functional equivalent was when dealing with geographical places and other sites in Britain. As argued by Newmark, geographical names should normally be transferred, unless no recognised translation exists, and “where appropriate, a culturally-neutral TL third-term, i.e. a functional equivalent, should be added” (ibid:82). Consider the following example.

(15) A villa at **Hinton St Mary**,

Dorset, may also have been a place of Christian worship (Wilson:32)

En villa i **byn Hinton St Mary i grevskapet Dorset** i sydväst kan ha varit ytterligare en plats för kristen tillbedjan

In the ST, numerous geographical places in Britain are mentioned. Since the new target group consists of non-British readers, alterations were made in the TT. Newmark stresses the importance of considering if you are translating for a different type of readership and whether their knowledge level might be different from that of the original target group (Newmark 1988:15). Generally speaking, it seems reasonable to assume that British geography is more foreign to a Swedish target reader than a British one. Geographical names probably give a British reader the correct denotations and associations, while there is a risk of loss of information for Swedish readers. Therefore, what Newmark refers to as *classifiers* (ibid:92) have been given to many of the British geographical names in the TT, as for instance the nouns **byn** and **grevskapet** in (15). They serve as an aid for the reader to distinguish between cities, towns, villages, counties, peninsulas and other sites in Britain mentioned in the ST, and thereby follow the view that “[t]he translator has to assist his reader” (Newmark 1981:128).

**2.2.2.2 Transference coupled with a descriptive equivalent**

There are also several couplets in the TT that consist of a transferred ST proper noun coupled with a descriptive equivalent, although they are not as common as the form of couplets analysed in the previous section. Consider the following examples.

(16) **Domesday Book** records three estates at ‘Lolingstone’ (Wilson:35)

**I Vilhelm Erövrarens jordebok**

*Domesday Book, som är en sammanställning av de engelska lantegendomarnas storlek, värde,*
(17) In 1956 the Ministry of Works, a predecessor of English Heritage, took over the site (Wilson:38)

År 1956 tog det statliga departementet Ministry of Works över ansvaret för platsen ... De var föregångare till dagens English Heritage som förvaltar historiska och arkeologiska platser i Storbritannien.

Examples (16) and (17) include the culture bound proper names Domesday Book and English Heritage, both closely tied to British history and society. As in (14), it seems likely that for an expert readership, transference of these cultural words would be adequate, whereas a layman readership would require further additions, as is the case with most texts (Newmark 1981:78).

A gap is created, particularly between layman readerships in the two cultures. Swedish laymen are likely to be puzzled if being presented only with Domesday Book, since this book is not linked to their national history, and thereby their culture. In order to overcome the gap, additional information has been given in the TT. Incidentally, as can be seen in (16) and (17) above, functional equivalents are also included in the couplets in order to make the passages more reader friendly: the noun phrases Vilhelm Erövrarens jordebok and det statliga departementet have been added. Regarding the descriptive equivalents, a relative clause was added in (16) giving a closer description of the book and its content, which makes it easier for laymen to understand this passage. In (17) the ST sentence was recasted and divided into two, where the English Heritage was described more closely in the added sentence. The risk of loss of information for laymen, if using transference only, was considered more serious than the risk of being slightly too explicit for experts. Making cultural contents accessible to a new readership is considered crucial when translating (Newmark 1981:43).

2.2.3 Addition

There were instances in the TT where information was added, but not in the form of couplets. Cardinal points and historical facts were added in a number of cases. First, the addition of cardinal points will be analysed in relation to example (18). Thereafter, examples (19) and (20) illustrate the addition of historical facts, whereby a discussion will follow.
(18) to envisage transplanting Fishbourne Palace from West Sussex to the shores of the Mediterranean (Wilson:29)

(18) att föreställa sig hur det romerska palatset Fishbourne Palace som ligger i grevskapet West Sussex i söder, förflytta ner till Medelhavets kuster.

In general, the same reasons described in example (15) are relevant also in example (18). It has been established that the TT addresses a different reader than the ST. According to Newmark, it is often necessary to make the TT more explicit and explain certain aspects further due to differences between target groups (Newmark 1981:20). Consequently, cardinal points have been added in order to decrease the distance between the original target readers and the new target group. By adding the postmodifier i söder in (18), TL readers get an idea of the approximate location of the site described, which a British reader most likely knows when being presented only with West Sussex.

As mentioned previously, the addition of historical facts will be analysed in relation to examples (19) and (20).

(19) is likely to have originated before the Norman Conquest (Wilson:34-35).

(19) troligtvis härrör kapellet från tiden före den normandiska erövringen av England år 1066.

(20) Lullingstone deer park was established in the time of Elizabeth I (Wilson:35).

(20) Under Elisabet I:s tid (1558–1603) anlades hjortparken Lullingstone deer park.

In the two examples above, the name of a culture bound event or person is used as a way of referring to a specific period of time. Non-British readers might have difficulties knowing the approximate years intended without further information. Therefore, a prepositional phrase has been added in (19) giving the new readership the information needed in order to fully understand this passage. Moreover, in (20) the years of reign of Elizabeth I have been added in brackets. As mentioned previously, making the cultural content more accessible to the TL reader should be the main focus when translating references to cultural phenomena (Newmark 1981:43).
2.2.4 Omission

There was one example of an omission of a ST proper name. In its place, a less culture bound noun phrase was used in the TT. Consider example (21) below.

(21) Meates, who had recently retired from the Royal Artillery (Wilson:25)  
Meates hade nyligen dragit sig tillbaka från den brittiska armén

To transfer the Royal Artillery to the TT in the form of a couplet, which would be required in order to meet the needs of the target group, was considered unnecessary since – unlike other examples analysed earlier – the ST proper name is not in any way related to the topic of the text. A couplet consisting of the transferred ST name coupled with a functional equivalent would be as follows: den brittiska arméns artilleriförband Royal Artillery. However, as stated above, further information about which branch of the Royal Army that Meates retired from is not relevant, and would only make this passage more complex than is needed. “A term of little importance in the TL culture … may be deleted in translation, provided it is marginal to the text, and some indication of function given where required” (Newmark 1981:77). The noun phrase den brittiska armén provides the readers with “an indication of function” as quoted above. The loss of meaning is therefore marginal, and since it does not concern the topic of the text it is of little importance in this particular case.

3 Conclusion

The aim of this study was to analyse a translation from English to Swedish of the second part of the English Heritage guidebook Lullingstone Roman Villa, by Pete Wilson (2009). The aspects focused on were terms and other vocabulary items within the subject fields of archaeology and architecture, as well as cultural aspects. The theoretical framework of this study was based on models by translation theorists Newmark, Vinay & Darbelnet and Ingo.

The first part of the analysis deals with the handling of terms and other vocabulary items within archaeology and architecture. There were many instances in the ST that posed a challenge, due to various reasons. Literal translation was one of the most common procedures applied. Both Newmark and Vinay & Darbelnet share the view that if possible, a literal translation should always be the translator’s first choice (Vinay & Darbelnet 1995:288, Newmark 1981:39). Furthermore, since there were a number of Latin terms in the ST, Newmark’s transference procedure was another common translation strategy. Latin terms are often transferred due to the fact that “in translation they serve as internationalisms” (Newmark
1988:159). However, equivalence and omission were other strategies used, since not all terms and other vocabulary items could be translated literally or go through the process of transference. Parallel texts proved to be of great importance during the translation process, as they usually provide the translator with the proper vocabulary that tends to be used within various subject fields (Chesterman & Wagner 2002:73).

The second part of the analysis focuses on the translation of references to cultural phenomena. As stated in the analysis, many texts contain traces of their SL culture and alterations are often needed in order to adapt the TT to its new target group. Newmark stresses the importance of making “the cultural content of the original more accessible to the reader” (Newmark 1981:43). The ST contained references to various cultural aspects linked to British society, geography, national history etc. Vinay & Darbelnet’s adaptation procedure was put to use frequently, when adapting the text to the target language and culture. However, couplets proved to be the most frequently used strategy when dealing with references to cultural aspects. They consisted of transference of the ST proper noun coupled with either a functional or a descriptive equivalent. Newmark argues that transference coupled with a functional equivalent is the most common way of transferring cultural components in informative texts (Newmark 1988:47), an opinion which agrees with the findings in this study. Other forms of additions were also made in the TT, linked to historical facts and cardinal points. An omission was also used in one particular case.

Due to the limited scope of this study, not all interesting aspects could be included in the analysis. Considering the fact that this study mainly focuses on semantics and pragmatics, it would have been interesting to analyse grammatical changes between the ST and TT. What is more, to translate the ST for a different target group and analyse necessary changes would be another interesting aspect. As mentioned in the beginning of the analysis, the handling of ST terms would have required a different approach had the TT been aimed at, for instance, school children.
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