WikiLeaks
Inside Julian Assange’s War on Secrecy

A Translation Study of Metaphors and Metonomy in Two Newspaper Articles from *the Guardian*

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Abstract

The purpose of this essay was to examine what methods might be used in translation from English to Swedish of two informative newspaper articles about current events, which took place in 2010 and 2011, viz. the publishing of secret documents on the Internet by Julian Assange and WikiLeaks.

The study is based on Lakoff and Johnson’s theories on metaphorical concepts, presented in their work *Metaphors We Live By* (1980/2003), and the focus of the translation study is on metaphors and metonomy.

The texts contain a large number of metaphors. Almost 100 of those have been listed in an Appendix, attached to this paper, and a great many of these metaphors were analysed. The special metaphor types of metonomy and personification were studied separately, as well as together with the rest of the metaphors.

The theoretical model used was Vinay and Darbelnet’s theories of *direct* and *oblique translation*, comprising the following seven strategies: literal translation, borrowing, calque, transposition, modulation, equivalence and adaptation. Other theorists, whose professional expertise and experience proved useful in this work, were Munday, Newmark and Ingo.

Parallel texts, monolingual dictionaries and the Internet were also most valuable in the the translation process.

Choosing the appropriate and correct vocabulary and expression in the target language was not always an easy task, and certain words and passages translated were revised on several occasions.

As for the translation strategies used, equivalence was the most interesting one, and transposition should perhaps have been used to a larger extent. Literal translation was probably used most of them all.

Keywords: translation, metaphors, metonomy, translation strategies
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1 Introduction

How we think metaphorically matters. It can determine questions of war and peace, economic policy, and legal decisions, as well as the mundane choices of everyday life. Is a military attack a “rape”, “a threat to our society”, or “the defense of a population against terrorism”? The same attack can be conceptualized in any of these ways with very different military consequences.[...] Because we reason in terms of metaphor, the metaphors we use determine a great deal about how we live our lives. (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980/2003: 243–244)

This is how George Lakoff and Mark Johnson formulate their view on the importance of metaphors. The conclusions they arrive at in their book Metaphors We Live By (1980/2003) are developed further in the Afterword, 2003 of the same book, where they express their conviction that our most fundamental ideas are almost entirely structured by elaborate systems of metaphor. The metaphors we meet in everyday life seem to be both universal ones and cultural variations (ibid: 274). Lakoff and Johnson claim that “metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language but in thought and action” and they mean that these metaphorical concepts “govern our everyday functioning, down to the most mundane details” (ibid:3). Thus, they play a vital role in conveying and conceptualising ideas and messages.

Translation from one language into another is a complicated process, which includes a variety of aspects that need to be taken into consideration. Can theory help translators in this process? This is a relevant question not easy to find a unanimous answer to, as there are few professions, where there is such a yawning gap between theory and practice as in translation (Chesterman & Wagner 2002:1–4). There is an interesting and ongoing dialogue about if and to what extent academic theories can be of any help to translators in their everyday working situation, and Wagner argues that “there is often no single solution, but there might be a range of standard solutions” (ibid:6), and Chesterman finally concludes that “narrowly descriptive theory wouldn’t work. [...] Perhaps what we need instead is a [...] practice-oriented theory – a theory rooted in best practice, directed at improved practice, and attentive to practitioners throughout the profession” (ibid:133).

The importance of understanding the source text (henceforth ST) is a vital part of the translation process, according to Newmark, but it is also important to define the intention of the text and, at the same time, to attempt to characterise the potential target reader (1988:12–13). He argues that “the chief difficulties in translating are lexical, not grammatical – i.e. words, collocations and fixed phrases or idioms” (ibid:32) – and he states that “difficulties with words are of two kinds: (a) you do not understand them; (b) you find them hard to
translate” (ibid:33). Another important issue is that since the words in the target language (henceforth *TL*) do not usually have the same semantic range as in the source language (henceforth *SL*), “you are over- or under-translating most of the time, usually the latter” (ibid:34).

The theorist Schulte, in his essay *The Translator as Mediator between Cultures* (2009), draws the picture of translators holding keys to certain secrets in the source culture, keys which will open the doors for people who are not familiar enough with the SL and culture to be able to understand the ST on their own. In this way, the translator makes the other culture accessible, by transferring the content of the ST to the target text (henceforth *TT*). Thus, translators, who live intensely in both the SL and the TL, have the ability to perceive and interpret the differences between the two languages and, equipped with the necessary tools, they will also know how to reconstruct and make comprehensible the different concepts in the ST for a meaningful communication to take place (ibid).

The purpose of this translation study is to highlight and analyse some difficulties met, when translating two newspaper articles from the national British broadsheet *the Guardian* into Swedish. The primary function of informative texts is to deliver the message, i.e. the information per se, which should be expressed with clarity and precision (Ingo 2009:127). This is of course equally desirable when translating the content into the TL. The language used in the two articles, i.e. the more formal vocabulary and register of an English quality daily, is similar to what would be used in a Swedish newspaper of the same type, e.g. the national paper *Dagens Nyheter*, and the translated articles are meant to address the same category of readers in the TL as in the SL. Usually, both cultural differences and other situational factors need to be explained or dealt with in some way, when translating from one language into another.

The focus of the paper will be on metaphors and metonomy. The metaphors selected will thus be analysed, categorised and commented on, with due reference to some translation theories, which will be explained in detail in Section 2. The aim of the study will be presented in the following sub-section. Thereafter, the translation process will be commented on, and the ST will also be presented. The analysis of the result will follow in Section 3 and finally, the conclusion in Section 4.
1.1 Aim
The aim of this study is to analyse a translation of two articles from an English broadsheet into Swedish. Focus will be on how to deal with difficulties and problems experienced in the translation process regarding metaphors and metonymy.

1.2 Method
In order to obtain data for the present study, the first step was to translate a chosen ST into Swedish and, in the process, to identify particular problems and/or interesting phenomena, which could be dealt with, when coming to the second step of the assignment, i.e. this translation study.

First of all, the articles were skimmed a couple of times and eventually also perused alongside with other reading of parallel texts, both in English and Swedish, to acquire a good knowledge of the subject and also to find suitable vocabulary for the subsequent translation. While reading various texts and also later, when translating the ST, notes were taken on a regular basis, on the one hand to list difficulties and problems encountered in the articles, on the other to have an overview of potential aspects to be analysed in the translation study.

Apart from parallel texts, various other aids were used in the translation process, e.g. dictionaries of different kinds, encyclopaedias and, to a fairly large extent, the Google browser, especially when no other sources were available. Especially for cultural phenomena, like names and places, googling was many times good help.

Books about translation theories were studied alongside all other work in the lookout for theories to fall back on and strategies to be used in the subsequent analysis.

1.3 Material
The primary material for this translation study was originally published as newspaper articles in the national daily the Guardian in 2010 and, at the same time, they were also published online. The reason for choosing a broadsheet instead of a tabloid was that it would most likely treat the subject more thoroughly and in detail and also use more advanced language, which was desirable. Being a respected national daily, the Guardian seemed a good alternative, similar to the Swedish national paper Dagens Nyheter, where you could probably find parallel texts in Swedish, which would be useful in the translation process, particularly as both papers use a similar stylistic level with a more formal vocabulary and register.
When deciding what text to translate, my own interest in current affairs led the way to what finally became the natural subject choice: some newspaper articles about Julian Assange and WikiLeaks, a subject which was highly topical at the time (the autumn of 2010 onwards). During the last two months of 2010 and continuing over the following months in the new year, the names of Julian Assange and WikiLeaks were on everybody’s lips. The reason for this sudden and incredible interest was that Assange had published secret American diplomatic cables and classified files on the Internet site WikiLeaks, which caused worldwide uproar. This leak, considered to be the biggest leak in the history of the world so far, would from then on be part of the daily front-page news for several months to come (Leigh & Harding 2011:2–3). Two articles were finally chosen, and the following online versions were used:

- **Introduction**, written by Alan Rusbridger (guardianbookshop.co.uk), who is the editor-in-chief of the Guardian
- **WikiLeaks: Strained relations, accusations – and crucial revelations**, written by David Leigh and Luke Harding (guardian.co.uk), both of them journalists working at the Guardian.

Later on, both articles also appeared in the book *WikiLeaks: Inside Julian Assange’s War on Secrecy* (2011), written by the same two journalists mentioned above. Rusbridger’s article has not been changed and functions as Introduction in the book, but the text of the second article used here has been slightly modified and altered in the book version.

Both texts are mainly informative texts, however, to a certain extent with expressive features. The first text written by Rusbridger, later functioning as an introduction in the book, tells the story of WikiLeaks and Julian Assange and their connection to the Guardian and some journalists working there, including himself as editor-in-chief, from the very first contacts with Assange to the release of the documents by WikiLeaks. The second article describes how Assange at a meeting with journalists from the Guardian handed over a password, and after that, one can follow the sequence of events finally leading to the leak. Both texts, written by different writers, give detailed information about what happened based on facts and, in that sense, the tone of the message delivered is reasonably neutral, which is to be expected of an informative text (Ingo 2009:127). However, there is a faint streak of subjectivity throughout in both texts, which somewhat contradicts the objectivity and gives the texts a certain expressive character as well.
The purpose of the text in these to newspaper articles, like in many similar parallel texts on the same subject in 2010–2011, is to give current information about the course of events, constantly updating the reader about the latest news. However, to make the news still more interesting and to attract more readers, the journalists seem to add their own personal brush strokes to the picture, which in a way makes it less objective. Furthermore, there are quite many metaphors in these texts, which is not characteristic of a strictly informative text: “In theory, metaphor is only justified in the more popular or journalistic type of informative text, where the reader’s interest has to be roused” (Newmark 1988:207), which would be true regarding these two articles. Worth mentioning is also that metaphors seem to be common and particularly picturesque in e.g. English journalism (ibid:209).

The target reader of the Swedish translation is expected to be more or less the same category as in the SL, i.e. probably mainly educated middle-class readers interested in current events and used to reading relatively advanced language found in quality newspapers like Dagens Nyheter, and the purpose of the translation is to make the TT equally accessible to Swedish readers as the ST is to English readers. However, as the articles from the Guardian have also been published online, the readership on the net may be more diversified compared to those who read their dailies as actual paper copies, and this would probably also be the case, if the Swedish TT articles were published on the Internet.

Besides a thorough study of the two ST articles, other relevant material has been used in the translation process, e.g. parallel texts both in English and Swedish as well as dictionaries of various kinds, especially Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (2005, henceforth OALD), Norstedts (ord.se), Oxford English Dictionary (oed.com) and Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary (merriam-webster.com). As for the study of translation theories, some titles are particularly worth mentioning: first of all Konsten att översätta (2007) by Rune Ingo with models for how to deal with both form and content when translating and secondly, Jeremy Munday’s Introducing Translation Studies (2008), outlining translation theories and strategies presented in a historical context. Other useful literature has been Peter Newmark’s A Textbook of Translation (1988), which is a valuable handbook of translation with illustrative examples, as well as Lakoff and Johnson’s Metaphors We Live By (1980/2003), where they claim that our conceptual system is largely metaphorical. Finally, the fifth book worth mentioning is Can Theory Help Translators? (2002) by Andrew Chesterman and Emma Wagner with a discussion about translation theory and practice, seen throughout history. Last but not least, Google has been a good and faithful servant, when no other options were available.
2 Background theory

Even though translation has played a crucial role in human communication throughout history, it is not until the mid 1900s that it achieved its status as an academic discipline. Pre-twentieth-century translation theory focused to a large extent on whether translations should be literal (word-for-word) or free (sense-for-sense), and for more than a millenium theorists were preoccupied with controversy over the translation of the Bible (Munday 2008:34). Modern translation theory covers a diverse field, and there is a large number of different disciplines involved (Munday 2008:1–7). The emphasis today lies more on conveying the sense than focusing on style and form, although these issues are still not unimportant (Ingo 2009:76).

When defining translation, Ingo suggests that four basic aspects should be considered: grammatical structure, linguistic variety, semantics and pragmatics (2007:20–23). All these aspects have been dealt with, when translating the two articles, but only a few of them will be looked further into and analysed in this study, with the main focus on semantics and pragmatics, and more precisely on metaphors. The theoretical models on which the present study is based will be introduced below.

A good overview of useful tools was given in Munday’s *Introducing Translation Studies* (2008), where Vinay and Darbelnet’s model of direct and oblique translation would prove most useful as strategies. Nida’s theories of formal and dynamic equivalence have been used only occasionally and to complete the picture, but more important for this work were Newmark’s theories, particularly his practical examples. Last but not least, Lakoff and Johnson’s theoretical model has constituted the solid foundation on which to build this study.

2.1 Nida’s theories of formal and dynamic equivalence

In the history of translation, the issue of equivalence was very much in focus during the second half of the 1900s. One of the theorists was Nida, who played a vital role with his concepts of formal and dynamic equivalence. Formal equivalence meant focusing on the message itself in both form and content, and dynamic equivalence was based on “the principle of equivalent effect” (Nida 1964, cited in Munday 2008:42), where the goal was defined as seeking “the closest natural equivalent to the source-language message” (ibid). This new model stressed the importance of tailoring the message to the receiver’s linguistic needs and cultural expectations, thus leaving the word-for-word translation, which had been very much
in use up till then (ibid). Also Ingo, in his *Från källspråk till målspråk* (2007) presents Nida’s theories, stating that the most important criterion for a translation to be successful is for the translator to achieve dynamic equivalence, and the form is said to be less important. The target reader should experience the translation in the same way as the readers of the source text (1991:241–242).

2.2 Vinay and Darbelnet’s model of direct translation and oblique translation

Vinay and Darbelnet carried out a stylistic analysis in the 1950s, which has been widely recognised, although it was based only on English and French. In revised forms these translation strategies, *direct translation* and *oblique translation*, have remained useful tools for translators. They cover seven procedures as follows:

**Direct translation** includes:

- **Borrowing** – the word is transferred to the TL without being altered, e.g. glasnost.
- **Calque** – a so called loan translation, i.e. a literal translation where the expression or structure of the SL is transferred, e.g. bottle-neck that has become the Swedish flaskhals.
- **Literal translation** – a word-for-word translation, quite common in languages of the same family and culture.

**Oblique translation**, which must be used where direct translation is not possible, includes:

- **Transposition** – you change the grammar or structure without changing the meaning, e.g. *From*, written by the sender on the back of an English letter, becomes *Avs.* on a Swedish one.
- **Modulation** – a semantic change but also where the situation is seen from another perspective than what is the case in the SL, e.g. *he entered the motorway* becomes *han körde ut på motorvägen*, when translated into Swedish.
- **Equivalence** – the same situation is described but by using different stylistic and structural means, e.g. *the story so far* becomes *detta har hänt*, and the French *les grandes vacances* becomes the Swedish *sommarlovet.*
• **Adaptation** – when there is no corresponding phenomenon or situation in the target culture and the expression from the source text is replaced or otherwise adapted to the target culture situation, e.g. *the Sunday roast* for an Englishman would mean *mammas köttbullar* for a Swede (Munday 2008:56–59).

### 2.3 Newmark’s semantic and communicative translation and his theories of metaphor translation

Newmark’s theories of *communicative translation* resembles Nida’s dynamic equivalence regarding the effect on the target reader, and his *semantic translation* is similar to Nida’s formal equivalence (Munday 2008:44). His opinion on literal translation is clear: “In communicative as in semantic translation, 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, cited in Munday 2008:45). Newmark suggests certain terminology for discussing metaphors, whereby he mentions *metaphor* and *metonym*, which he defines like this:

*Metaphor:* the figurative word used, which may be one-word, or ‘extended’ over any stretch of language from a collocation to the whole text. *Metonym:* a one-word image which replaces the ‘object’. It may be a cliché metaphor (‘crown’ as monarchy), recently standardised (‘juggernaut’, *mastodonte*) or original (‘sink’ as hold-all receptacle). Metonym includes *synecdoche* (i.e. part for whole, or whole for part) (1988:105–106).

Newmark distinguishes six types of metaphors, which will be briefly explained here:

- **Dead metaphors** – they are hardly looked upon as metaphors. Examples: *foot* as in “the foot of the mountain” and *mouth* as in “the mouth of the river”. They are usually not difficult to translate but cannot always be translated literally.
- **Cliché metaphors** – they may temporarily have outlived their usefulness and are sometimes hard to distinguish from dead metaphors. Example: “a jewel in the crown of the country’s education”, referring to those days when India was looked upon as the jewel in the crown of the British Empire.
- **Stock or standard metaphors** – established metaphors, which have not become dead because of overuse. Examples: *keep the pot boiling* and *a drop in prices*. It is quite common that a stock metaphor can be replaced by another established stock metaphor when translating.
• **Adapted metaphors** – if possible, they should be translated by an equivalent adapted metaphor. Example: *the ball is a little in their court*, meaning “it is their responsibility to take action”, which could be expressed in the TL as “nu ligger bollen hos dem”.

• **Recent metaphors** – a metaphorical neologism that has spread rapidly. Examples: *head-hunting* and *couch potato*.

• **Original metaphors** – metaphors which have been created by the SL writer (ibid:105–112).

### 2.4 Metaphors and metonymy

According to *Merriam-Webster*, a *metaphor* is “a figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them (as in *drowning in money*)” (merriam-webster.com). In *OALD* a metaphor is described as “a word or phrase used to describe somebody/something else, in a way that is different from its normal use, in order to show that the two things have the same qualities and to make the description more powerful, for example *She has a heart of stone*” (OALD 2005:963). A specific type of metaphor, which will also be dealt with, is *personification*, defined as “the practice of representing objects, qualities etc. as humans, in art and literature” (ibid:1128). Examples of personification are *life has cheated me* and *the wind howled*.

One definition of *metonymy* is a “figure of speech consisting of the use of the name of one thing for that of another of which it is an attribute or with which it is associated” (merriam-webster.com), and another definition is “the act of referring to something by the name of something else that is closely connected with it, for example using *the White House for the US President*” (OALD 2005:963–964). This way of using metonymy, like the use of *city hall* to mean *municipal government*, is “standard journalistic and headline practice” (britannica.com). Another special type of metonymy, called *synecdoche*, is where the part stands for the whole, an example of this being “We need some *new blood* in the organisation”, meaning “new people” (Lakoff & Johnson 1980/2003:36).

### 2.5 Lakoff and Johnson’s theories of metaphors as concepts

Lakoff and Johnson claim that our most fundamental ideas are almost entirely structured by elaborate systems of metaphor. These metaphors that we encounter in our everyday lives are both universal ones and cultural variations (Lakoff & Johnson 1980/2003:274). They argue
that metaphors are found not only in language but also in thought and action, thus playing a vital role in conveying and conceptualising ideas and messages (ibid:3). Their inherent systematicity can be seen in concepts, such as TIME IS MONEY, illustrated by these two examples: “You’re wasting my time” and “This gadget will save you hours” (ibid:7). Time is here looked upon as a valuable asset, in the first example a limited resource that should not be wasted, and in the second example as profit that will be made by using a certain gadget. In both examples, time is associated with money, which is characteristic of our modern Western culture (ibid: 8-9). Lakoff and Johnson divide metaphors as follows:

- **structural metaphors**, “where one concept is metaphorically structured in terms of another” (ibid:14), e.g. conceptual metaphors like ARGUMENT IS WAR (ibid:7) – examples: “attack one problem at a time” and “the film was shot in Africa”,

- **orientational metaphors**, “since most of them have to do with spatial orientation: up-down, in-out, front-back, on-off” (ibid:14) etc., with concepts like HAPPY IS UP; SAD IS DOWN (ibid:14–15) – examples: “his spirits rose” and “she’s feeling low”,

- **ontological metaphors**, which imply “ways of viewing events, activities, emotions, ideas, etc. as entities and substances” (ibid: 25), with concepts like INFLATION IS AN ENTITY and THE MIND IS A BRITTLE OBJECT – examples: “Inflation is backing us into a corner” and “She is easily crushed” (ibid:26–28). Further examples of metaphorical concepts are IDEAS ARE FOOD – example: “He devoured the book”, LOVE IS MADNESS – example: “She drives me out of my mind” and LIFE IS A CONTAINER – examples: “I’ve had a full life” and “Life is empty for him” (ibid:46–51).

The special type of metaphor, called personification, Lakoff and Johnson describe as “a general category that covers a very wide range of metaphors, each picking out different aspects of a person or ways of looking at a person”. Typical of all such metaphors is that “they allow us to make sense of the world in human terms” (ibid:34). Thus, the way of looking upon inflation in the example above as a human threatening us, facilitates comprehension. Lakoff and Johnson also claim that metonymic concepts are systematic just like the metaphoric ones, this being illustrated in the following examples below:

THE PART FOR THE WHOLE:  
PRODUCER FOR THE PRODUCT:  
*We don’t hire long-hairs. Get your butt out of here!*  
*I’ll have a Kilkenny. He’s got a Picasso in his den.*
INSTITUTION FOR PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE: 
THE PLACE FOR THE INSTITUTION: 

You’ll never get the university to agree to that. 
Wall Street is in panic. The White House has not reacted yet. (ibid:38–39)

3 Analysis

Almost 100 metaphors found in the ST have been listed in an Appendix, attached to this term paper, and a reasonable selection of these have been analysed, based primarily on Vinay and Darbelnet’s model. Lakoff and Johnson’s theories have been useful as an overall foundation for the study, especially when coming to grips with the conceptual aspect of metaphors, to better understand the meaning of the ST and thereby facilitate the translation process.

3.1 Conceptual metaphors

The notion of metaphors as concepts and the way they “govern our everyday functioning” (Lakoff & Johnson 1980/2003:3) has been an underlying theme in the whole translation process, even though Vinay and Darbelnet’s theories have supplied the main strategies used when translating. Therefore, some examples from the ST, illustrating Lakoff and Johnson’s model will be presented first of all. They make the following division:

By means of structural metaphors, “where one concept is metaphorically structured in terms of another” (ibid:14), we structure our everyday activities, i.e. what we do and how we understand what we are doing by using certain metaphorical concepts to illustrate these activities (ibid:4–5). In the examples (1) and (2), where the concept of food is used, the activities are talked about in terms of food, and in a similar way, other concepts can be used to structure other everyday activities, which is illustrated in the different examples below:

THE CONCEPT OF FOOD

(1) ... spent the summer voraciously reading his way into the material. ... tillbringade sommaren med att glupskt sluka materialet.
(2) For some it simply boiled down to a reluctance to admit För somliga inskränkte det sig helt enkelt till en motvilja att erkänna

In (1) the word voracious means “eating and wanting large amounts of food” (OALD 2005:1709), and in a way it could be said that the reader is eating his way into the material. This image has been conveyed into the TT as well by means of the translation glupskt sluka materialet. In (2) the expression boil down means “reduce by boiling” (ibid:162), which will leave what is boiled in a more concentrated form. Thus, the figurative sense of the expression
implies that “reluctance” is emphasised, which is the case in a similar way in the TT metaphor.

THE CONCEPT OF WAR

(3) ... now started marshalling wider forces ... började nu ställa upp styrkor på bredare front

In the expression marshalling forces in (3), marshal means that you gather together e.g. people for a particular purpose (OALD 2005: 941), and the word forces in this case seems to imply “military forces”, which is suggested in the TT metaphor as well. There you also have the Swedish word “front” in styrkor på bredare front, underlining the concept of war.

THE CONCEPT OF AN ORGANISATION (THE STATE) AS A LIVING BEING

(4) ... from the heart of the world’s only superpower.

Here in (4) the superpower is likened to a living creature, having a heart and thus being alive, and the same bodily metaphor has been used in the translation.

For orientational metaphors, where “most of them have to do with spatial orientation: up – down, in – out, front – back, on – off” (Lakoff & Johnson 1980/2003:14), “up – down” stands for the concept of “positive – negative” as illustrated in the example below:

THE CONCEPT OF UP VS. DOWN

(5) ... we had our reasons to watch the rise of WikiLeaks ... hade vi våra egna skäl att titta på WikiLeaks uppågång

In (5) the same metaphor has been used in the TT as in the ST, conveying a positive image of the development of WikiLeaks from being virtually unknown to becoming a household word.

Ontological metaphors imply “ways of viewing physical objects, events, activities, emotions, ideas, etc. as entities and substances” (ibid: 25). Two examples of ontological metaphors found in the ST are shown below, and further examples will be given later on in the study:

THE CONCEPT OF OBJECTS AS ENTITIES

(6) ... the site had ended up hosting documents ... hade webbsidan varit värd för dokument
(7) ... material sitting on WikiLeaks site. ... material som fanns på WikiLeaks hemsida

The site in (6), i.e. the website where you publish your material on the Internet, is here looked upon as an entity, a human being acting as a host, which is illustrated by the ST verb “host”. The corresponding expression in the TT, with *webbsidan* described as a host, conveys the same meaning. Furthermore, the *material* in (7), which implies the documents published on the site, can also be regarded as a living being in the ST, which is underlined by the verb ”sitting”, i.e. someone sitting on this site. In the Swedish translation, however, the TT word *material* does not indicate an entity at all, even though the same word is used in both languages. The reason for the difference in meaning is that you have different verbs in the two texts. The TT expression “som fanns” in connection with “material” does not make you think of a living being. In this case, *material* just means “material”, no more, no less.

### 3.2 Metaphors in direct and oblique translation

Vinay & Darbelnet’s theories of direct and oblique translation constituted the principal tools for the analysis.

#### 3.2.1 Literal translation

*Literal translation* “is a ‘word-for-word’ translation, which Vinay and Darbelnet describe as being most common between languages of the same family and culture” (Munday 2008:57), e.g. between English and Swedish, which are both Germanic languages. This, the easiest and most convenient strategy, was chosen when translating the ST metaphors in (8), (9), (10), (11) and (12) below, the reason being that the message conveyed would be easily understood by the TT readers:

(8) ... this new *media baron* ... den här nye *mediabaronen*

(9) ... the mysterious Australian *nomad* ... den mystiske australiske *nomaden*

(10) ... everything was paralysed by a little freelancer ... allting *lamslogs av en liten frilansare*

(11) *These wrinkles were mainly overcome – sometimes eased* by a glass of wine *De här skrynklorna fick vi bukt med till största delen – ibland slätades de ut av ett glas vin*

The metaphors in (8), (9) and (10) are all familiar concepts, and they have been translated literally with the same word in the TT as in the ST, which is correct for (9) and (10). The word *baron* in (8) means in the first literal sense “baron”, and the second figurative sense is “a
person who owns or controls a large part of a particular industry” (OALD 2005:111). Media baron in English is a common expression, meaning “a powerful owner of media; spec. one thought to influence public opinion for political or personal ends” (oed.com). The corresponding TT expression, i.e. the literal translation of the word, does not seem to be very common, however. In Swedish “mediemogul” appears to be the preferred vocabulary, which was confirmed by corpora in Språkbanken (sprakbanken.gu.se) and also confirmed when googling. Nevertheless, although the natural choice, generally speaking, should have been “mediemogulen”, when translating the ST word into Swedish, the final choice ended up being mediabaronen. As the Swedish word “baron” suggests a person of high rank, “mediabaronen” rightly pictures Assange as an influential person in media. However, despite being almost non-existent in the TL, “mediabaronen” was created and used in this context as an original metaphor, according to Newmark’s theories (1988) as described in Section 2.3. It seems to tally more with Assange than the word “mediamogulen”, which would have been a more suitable epithet for someone like the newspaper magnate Rupert Murdoch1. Thus, sometimes a personal choice will have to be necessary for a translator, when no definite options seem available.

In (10) a straightforward literary translation was applied with no difficulties met, and finally, in example (11), the metaphor in the ST illustrates problems as wrinkles, which may sometimes be solved or eased out by a glass of wine. The same metaphors as in the ST have been used in the TT, the simple reason being that this rather colourful expression seemed to blend in equally well in the TT.

The final example of literal translation chosen is as follows:

(12) He had just helped to orchestrate the biggest leak

Han hade just hjälpt till med att iscensätta den största läckan

In (12) both the SL phrase orchestrate the biggest leak and the TL phrase iscensätta den största läckan consist of two metaphors put together, and the phrases per se are also metaphors, both conveying the same meaning. When looking up the word orchestrate in a monolingual dictionary, the first meaning given is “to arrange a piece of music in parts so that it can be played by an orchestra”, while the second meaning given is “to organise a

1 Rupert Murdoch is an Australian-born newspaper publisher and media entrepreneur, founder and head of the global media holding company the News Corporation Ltd., which governed News Limited (Australia), News International (U.K.), and News America Holdings Inc. (U.S.) (britannica.com).
complicated plan or event very carefully or secretly”, and a synonym given in the dictionary is “stage-manage” (OALD 2005:1069), which literally translated would be “iscensätta” in Swedish. Originally, “iscensätta” and “stage-manage” mean “to act as stage-manager for a performance in a theatre” (OALD 2005:1488), which indicates that these words described another concept in the beginning, i.e. life on stage. Both the ST word and the TT word are frequently used in their own language. It needs to be pointed out, however, that it is not quite clear that this should be regarded as a literal translation. Classification is not always unequivocal.

3.2.2 Borrowing

Borrowing means that “the SL word is transferred directly to the TL” (Munday 2008:56). In (13) there are two metaphors, which have been literally translated into the TL. The first metaphor translated is a calque – see further examples in (14) and (15) below – implying a secret and illegal activity in both languages. This first metaphor in (13) could be used as a definition of the second metaphor shown in the same example, which is originally an abbreviation of the Russian word samoizdátel'stvo, used as a loanword in English, denoting “the clandestine or illegal copying and distribution of literature” (oed.com). The whole phrase has been translated as follows:

(13) ... a vision of semi-underground digital publishing – ‘the samizdat of our day’ ... en vision av halvt underjordisk digital publicering – ”vår tids samizdat”

Samizdat publications started appearing after Stalin’s death in the 50s and constituted a type of underground press in the Soviet Union for decades to come (britannica.com). In this analysis, samizdat has been dealt with as an English word – even though it should rather be considered part of an international vocabulary – and thus transferred by means of borrowing. It already exists as a loanword in Swedish (svenskaakademien.se/ordlista), but it is probably not that well-known to the majority of readers. The word has kept its original form, when transferred from the ST, and an explanatory footnote has been added in the TT, as the expression most likely needs to be explained. Ingo suggests that this is an appropriate procedure, when an explanation in the TT would be too extensive (2007:151).

3.2.3 Calque

Calque or loan translation “is ‘a special kind of borrowing’ where the SL expression or structure is transferred in a literal translation” (Munday 2008:56). It is illustrated by two
examples in (14) and one example in (15). Calque, which is called “through translation” by Newmark (1988:84), is often a compound, where both parts are translated word-for-word into the TL (Ingo 2007:230), which is illustrated below:

(14) A new media messiah to some, he was a cyber-terrorist to others. En ny mediammessias för vissa, och en cyberterrorist för andra.

(15) ... digital whistleblowers ... digitala s.k. visslare (eng. whistleblowers)

Before commenting further on the calque examples above, it should be noted that it may be difficult, at first glance, to ascertain whether an expression is a calque or not. More documentation may often be needed, e.g. etymological and philological knowledge. Each one of the four words in the two calque examples in (14) is a well-known concept in today’s society, and the combination of the words into the two calque examples illustrated will most likely be understood by most people as well. The expression media messiah is a positive image, suggesting that Assange by many people is regarded almost as a saviour, a Jesus Christ in the cyber world. The opposite image is presented in the second metaphor, where he is looked upon as a terrorist in the same world. Thus, the same reality can be illustrated with two contradictory images, i.e. a wide divergence of opinion expressed. In other words, citing Lakoff and Johnson: “The concepts that govern our thought [...] govern our everyday functioning, down to the most mundane details” (1980/2003:3).

The expression whistleblowers in (15) was difficult to translate. A whistleblower is a person “who ‘blows the whistle’ on a person or activity [...], esp. from within an organisation” (oed.com). Whistleblowers who fail, when attempting to alert their own organisation, will go outside, if they feel strongly enough about the matter. This is what has happened a few times recently in Sweden and, therefore, the concept of “whistleblower” has been quite frequently seen and heard in newspapers and on television. Sometimes the English word has been used, sometimes the Swedish words “visslare” and “visselblåsare”. After googling, and especially reading a number of newspaper articles online from papers like Dagens Nyheter, Svenska Dagbladet, Göteborgs-Posten, Helsingborgs Dagblad and Expressen, visslare seemed to be the best alternative in the end. However, to facilitate comprehension, the English word was also given in brackets after the translated word. It is not altogether clear, if this metaphorical concept in the TT should be regarded as calque or literal translation, or even as borrowing. It depends on what word you will finally use in the TT. “Whistleblower” does not fit in too well in the TL, “visselblåsare” sounds slightly unidiomatic and “visslare” is not perfect. Other
Swedish words like “tjallare” and “golare” have a negative connotation, and “informatör” is too neutral.

3.2.4 Transposition

*Transposition* – “a change of one part of speech for another without changing the sense” (Munday 2008:57) – is “probably the most common structural change undertaken by translators” (Vinay & Darbelnet 1995, cited in ibid:57). As pointed out by Newmark, the changes can be of various kinds, not only from one word class to another but also from singular to plural, from one grammatical structure to another etc (1988:85-88). One example is given below in (16) to illustrate transposition:

(16) ... Jack Shafer, captured his character well in this pen portrait. ... Jack Shafer har skickligt fångat hans karaktär i det här porträttet.

This example is near to literal translation, with the word *captured* having the same semantic sense as the corresponding TL word *har skickligt fångat hans karaktär*. There is a difference in tense, however, with the ST verb in the simple past and the TT verb in the present perfect.

Another example of transposition is presented in (26), in connection with adaptation in Section 3.2.7. The metaphor translated by means of transposition in that example is shown here as well, however, not the whole sentence from (26), but only the metaphor referred to and its translation:

(26) There were repeated pilgrimages to... Man vallfärdade upprepade gånger till...

In this example the sentence structure has been changed, and there is also a change of one part of speech for another without changing the sense. The noun “pilgrimage” in the ST has been changed into the verb “vallfärdade” in the TT, which also required the addition of the noun “gånger” in the TT to make it possible to keep the adjective “repeated” but instead use it together with the added noun, i.e. *upprepade gånger*.

3.2.5 Modulation

*Modulation* “changes the semantics and point of view of the SL” (Munday 2008:57), and the situation is regarded from a different perspective in the TL than in the SL (Ingo 2007:152). Examples of modulation can be: “abstract for concrete, cause – effect, part – whole, part –
another part, reversal of terms, negation of opposite, active to passive (and vice versa), space for time, rethinking of intervals and limits (in space and time), change of symbol (including fixed and new metaphors)”, some of which will be shown below:

(17) ... that former Kenyan president Daniel Arap Moi had been siphoning off hundreds of millions of pounds

(18) The final piece of heavy journalistic lifting

The verb siphon in (17) means “to move a liquid from one container to another”, and a second figurative meaning of the word is: “to remove money from one place and move it to another, especially dishonestly and illegally” (OALD 2005:1426). In the ST metaphor, the money is said to have been transferred by means of a siphon, like siphoning petrol from a car into a tank. This has of course nothing to do with reality; it is an obvious metaphor. By using the verb “plundra” in the TT, the state is literally indicated as a building, which has been plundered. However, by means of personification, the state is implicitly thought of as a victim that has been robbed of some money. In the ST the state is not mentioned at all, but it is an implied object, not an entity. The meaning of both metaphors is that a very large sum of the state’s money is gone, which means that, pragmatically, these metaphors will be understood in the same way in both languages. However, from a semantic point of view, they are different.

In (18) the ST metaphor conveys the concept of a gym, where the journalist is busy weightlifting, which is hard work, if heavy weights are chosen. Two options were considered to render the meaning of heavy journalistic lifting, either det journalistiska styrkelyftet, which would probably have been understood by the reader, or det journalistiska grovjobbet, which was finally chosen. Both alternatives suggest hard work, where the gym metaphor is more specific, indicating physical strength, and where the second alternative is of a more general kind. Once again, two different images illustrating the same basic concept of hard work.

The following ST metaphor wily shape-shifter in (19) indicates that Assange sometimes appears in disguise, and it is not a positive picture given of him:

(19) He’s a wily shape-shifter

Han är en knipslag kameleont
A true shape-shifter in nature is the chameleon, which easily changes colour according to its surroundings. Therefore, the Swedish word *kameleont*, here used in the figurative sense as a metaphor, seemed a suitable translation, and it corresponds very well to the ST image, especially when determined by the adjective *knipslug*, which makes the TT metaphor equally negative. In this example, modulation is illustrated by the more concrete concept of *shape-shifter* in the SL, which in the TL has become the more abstract or figurative word *kameleont*, thus an example of changing concrete for abstract. Both have the same inherent meaning, though.

One more example of modulation is illustrated below:

(20) ... in scouring the world for evidence ... när det gällde att finkamma omvärlden på bevis

In (20) the ST verb *scour* in the metaphor means “to search a place or thing thoroughly in order to find sb/sth” (OALD 2005:1360), and the synonym “comb” is given in the dictionary. In the TT translation the verb *finkamma* is used, which in a figurative sense also means “to search thoroughly”. One expression in the ST has been changed into another semantically different expression in the TT, both conveying the same pragmatical meaning, though. The word *finkamma* was quite frequently used in Sweden back in the old days, when combing the hair searching for lice was not uncommon. The same procedure is still needed today to get rid of your lice, i.e. combing your hair meticulously. Thus, when using *finkamma* in this metaphor, it means a thorough search.

### 3.2.6 Equivalence

*Equivalence* is when “languages describe the same situation by different stylistic or structural means” (Munday 2008:58). Often idioms, recognised collocations and other expressions used in specific situations could be translated by means of equivalence, and although the translation is not semantically equivalent, the information will still be pragmatically conveyed (Ingo 2007:154). Some examples of equivalence are presented below:

(21) ... Assange had gone viral ... hade Assange spridit oerhörda mängder av WikiLeaksdokument på nätet

(22) ... was fraught territory ... var minerad mark
The word *viral* has to do with virus, and the expression *to go viral* means “to (be) spread widely and rapidly” (oed.com), and in this context it means that Assange had published WikiLeaks documents on the Internet en masse, so that the effect was like that of virus spreading. The message is pragmatically conveyed by the TT translation, which in this case is not a metaphor but only an explanation of what actually happened. Nothing is said about WikiLeaks and documents spread in the ST sentence, but this information is implied in the context, i.e. the surrounding sentences of that paragraph. It was considered necessary, however, to add this information in the TT to clarify the situation.

In (22) the word *fraught* means “farofylld”, which would be something like “farligt område” in Swedish, and the translation *minerad mark* seemed to convey this sense in a very good and pragmatical way.

The phrase in (23), *an unmediated account*, can be found in the following sentence about Bradley Manning, describing how he helped to bring about this leak in the very first place: “... of course, we have yet to hear an unmediated account from the man alleged to be the true source of the material, Bradley Manning, a 23-year-old US army private.” In the TT, (23) was translated as *en ofriserad berättelse*, meaning that Manning’s story should be told spontaneously, without mediation or pressure, so that nobody will be able to manipulate him and prevent him from telling the truth.

Two more examples of equivalence are illustrated below:

(24) *... all bets were off.*

... nu kunde det gå precis hur som helst.

(25) But the gods of news had decided to do things differently.

Men ödet ville annorlunda.

The idiomatic expression in (24), *all bets were off*, is an informal expression, meaning that “the outcome of a situation is unpredictable (oxforddictionaries.com) and that, in this context, agreements that had been made before, no longer would apply. Thus, what was previously expected to happen, might not happen now, and a suitable translation would be the one used above. The ST phrase is a more set expression, translated more freely into the TL, however, both phrases carrying the same meaning.

The situation described in (25) is when all parties involved were waiting to push the button on the big leak, but things did not go as planned. Everything went wrong, which has
been described in the ST, as if the gods of news were responsible. Another way of saying this is the proverbial phrase that has been used when translating into the TL: *Men ödet ville annorlunda*. When googling this phrase, there were about 1,860,000 results for the TL phrase (google.se). Although the translation is not semantically equivalent, the information is still pragmatically conveyed, but in this case you find the more set expression in the TT.

### 3.2.7 Adaptation

*Adaptation* – “involves changing the cultural reference when a situation in the source culture does not exist in the target culture” (Munday 2008:58).

If this translation study had included cultural aspects, there would have been many examples to analyse. However, as the aim is to investigate metaphors, there are few opportunities, where cultural aspects in connection with metaphors could be analysed. Therefore, only one example will be given here, where adaptation was needed to convey the ST message into the TL, viz. the following example below in (26):

(26) It had been a struggle to prise these documents from Assange back in London. There were repeated pilgrimages to the mews house belonging to Vaughan Smith’s Frontline Club near Paddington station before Assange reluctantly turned them over.

När de var tillbaka i London igen, var det med stor ansträngning som Davies lyckades förmå Assange att lämna över dessa dokument. Han var just då inkust hos Vaughan Smith, vd och grundare av mediaklubben Frontline Club nära Paddington Station. Man vallfärdade upprepade gånger till Vaughan Smiths hus, innan Assange motvilligt lämnade över dokumenten.

The translation of the metaphor *there were repeated pilgrimages* has already been commented on in section 3.2.4 on transposition. The ST metaphor in this case has been translated by means of another metaphor in the TT, both metaphors indicating the concept of “pilgrimage”, which is a serious and important activity. Thus, this is a suitable metaphor, as it was an important mission to get hold of the documents. Apart from the modulation example already mentioned, there are a number of changes in the TT, which were considered necessary to make for the understanding of the text. Regarding *adaptation*, both addition of information and omission have been used as strategies to convey a clear message to the target reader. Some details have been added in the TT to clarify and explain, e.g. the fact that Assange was staying in Vaughan Smith’s house and the connection between the Frontline Club and Vaughan Smith. As for omissions, the word *mews* has been omitted in the TT, on purpose, as it was considered redundant information what type of house Assange was staying in. Mews houses in London are low buildings, originally used as stables for horse and carriage, which
today to a very large extent have been converted into residential dwellings. There is no suitable Swedish translation, and using the English word “mews” without an explanation, would probably only confuse readers who are not familiar with the historical buildings of London. Therefore, it was a better option to simply use the word “hus” in the TT.

### 3.2.8 Metonomy and personification

**Metonomy**, which means “the act of referring to something by the name of something else that is closely connected with it, for example using the White House for the US President” (OALD 2005:963-964), is illustrated in the following examples:

(27) Talking to the State Department, Pentagon or White House, as the New York Times did
Att tala med utrikesdepartementet, Pentagon eller Vita Huset, som New York Times gjorde

(28) It was Der Spiegel’s turn to speak
Det var Der Spiegels tur att framföra sina synpunkter

In (27) all the names used are referred to as actual persons that are being talked to: the State Department means the people working there, the Pentagon means those working at the Department of Defence instead of the building itself, the White House stands for the President and the New York Times is not the actual newspaper here, but the journalists and other people working there. The sentence has been translated literally, but all the departments and organisations are metonymic concepts. That is applicable in example (28) as well, where Der Spiegel means the journalist representing this paper.

Another type of metonomy, called *synecdoche*, is where the part stands for the whole, as in the example “We need some new blood in the organisation”, meaning “new people” (Lakoff & Johnson 1980/2003:36). This is also illustrated in (29) below, where the concept of *legal heads* means “lawyers”:

(29) But there was also, among cooler legal heads, an appreciation
Men några av de lite mer måttfulla juristerna lyste uppfattningen

The word “head” in this case, which is an actual part of the human body, implies the whole person; thus the meaning of the plural form “heads” will be “people”, in this context “legal people”, i.e. “jurister” in the TL.
**Personification.** Lakoff and Johnson claim that *personification* may be one of the most obvious ontological metaphors (ibid:33), and the word defined by dictionary means “the practice of representing objects, qualities, etc. as humans” (OALD 2005:1128). The following examples in (30), (31), (32), (33) and (34) from the ST will illustrate personification:

(30) *The website’s initial instincts were to publish*  
Webbsidan’s första ingivelse var att publicera

(31) *... information which wants go get out will get out*  
... information som vill komma ut kommer ut

(32) *... if the paper agreed*  
... om tidningen gick med på

(33) *As the meeting dragged beyond midnight*  
Eftersom mötet drog ut till efter midnatt

(34) *... at sleepy Badischer Bahnhof.*  
... på den sömniga järnvägsstationen  
Badischer Bahnhof i Basel.

In (30) the website is looked upon as a publisher prepared to publish something, and in (31), (32) and (33) there are three different categories of living entities, i.e. the information, the paper and the meeting, now acting each and everyone in their given situations. In the TT they are all looked upon in the same way except for (33), where “mötet” is not described as a human being. Here the difference is created by the verbs, where “dragged” in the ST indicates someone moving slowly, but “drog ut” in the TT just indicates that the meeting lasted until after midnight. Finally, in (34) the railway station in Basel is described as a sleepy human being.

5 Conclusion

The aim of this study has been to examine how to deal with metaphors and metonomy when translating two informative newspaper articles from English into Swedish and, in this work, to be aware of what strategies to use to make the TT easily understood by the reader.

Lakoff and Johnson’s theoretical model was used as a basis for the study, giving great insight and inspiration for this work. Some examples were given to illustrate various concepts, like “the concept of food” and “the concept of war”, and it was an interesting experience to find that this conceptual thinking in a way facilitated the translation process. In fact, this approach sometimes made it easier in a way to come up with equivalent concepts or metaphors in the TT, when translating an expression from the ST. Lakoff and Johnson’s ideas
of metaphors as concepts ruling our thoughts, actions and daily lives are intriguing, and they make you consider things you never thought of before. In a way, it is a wake-up-call.

The strategies used were primarily those presented by Vinay and Darbelnet, which were all very useful and of great help, when trying to find suitable translations. When it comes to transposition, one of their strategies intended for translation, it should perhaps have been more used in this translation of the two articles – “food for thought” in future translation processes. Of the other strategies, literal translation was probably used most of them all, and equivalence was the most interesting one. Some metaphors were difficult to translate, and certain passages were revised on several occasions, but as a whole, it was not too difficult to find an equivalent expression that could be used.

Also regarding vocabulary, certain difficulties were met and, most of the time, overcome. However, the word whistleblower is still hovering in my mind. Should you use borrowing and thus write the English word when translating, or is it more suitable to use “visslare” or “visselblåsare”? This question remains for future experts and translators to answer.

Choosing the appropriate and correct word in a given situation is essential. Therefore, “an invaluable exercise for any translator is the constant use of dictionaries, not necessarily to learn new words, but to more fully comprehend the large spectrum of connotations and directions of meaning that might be at work in a particular word” (Schulte 2009). This is a view that should really be underlined, and in this study dictionaries of various kinds have been frequently used. Furthermore, the Internet should not be underestimated.

There are many theories and models available, which may be applicable, and a theoretical background will be most valuable in any situation. However, whatever theories will be referred to, the “translator has to have a flair and a feel for his own language. [...] This sixth sense, which often comes into play [...] during a final revision, tells you when to translate literally, and also, instinctively, perhaps once in a hundred or three hundred words, when to break all the ‘rules’ of translation” (Newmark 1988:4).

Finally, it is of vital importance that the translator has a high level of proficiency in both languages to be able to carry out the translation task satisfactorily. When there are more than one possible solution, the translator will have to decide what alternative to choose. To be successful, a good knowledge of your subject will be needed to convey the message properly and, last but not least, a good amount of research is most often required to solve problems as they arise. This I have experienced when working with the translation.
The final lines of this study will be the following wise words, expressed by a translator and theorist, who has almost as interesting views as Lakoff and Johnson:

By its very nature, translators are always in between two places: the reality of the source-language and the possibilities of the receptor language. Through the act of translation the translator opens the door for “dialogue”. That must be the translator’s greatest mission in today’s world in which nations and countries fall back into building walls among themselves rather than opening themselves to the foreignness of other cultures. (Rainer Schulte, 2009)
5 References

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APPENDIX – Metaphors from ST1 and ST2

(The numbers in this appendix do not correspond to the numbers given to the examples in the term paper text.)

Text 1

(1) ... or to use any of the documents they were unearthing ... eller använde några av de dokument som avslöjats

(2) ... that former Kenyan president Daniel Arap Moi had been siphoning off hundreds of millions of pounds ... att den förra kenyanske presidenten Daniel Arap Moi hade plundrat staten på hundratals miljoner pund

(3) Unnoticed by most of the world ... utan att göra alltför stort väsen av sig

(4) ... a vision of semi-underground digital publishing – 'the samizdat of our day' ... en vision av halvt underjordisk publicering – ”vår tids samizdat”

(5) ... digital whistleblowers ... digitala s.k. visslare (eng. whistleblowers)

(6) ... that was beginning to champion transparency ... som började kämpa för öppenhet

(7) ... Assange had gone viral ... hade Assange spridit oerhörda mängder av WikiLeaksdokument på nätet

(8) He had just helped to orchestrate the biggest leak Han hade just hjälp till med att iscensätta den största läckan

(9) ... Assange had been catapulted from the obscurity of his life in Nairobi ... hade Assange slungats ut från ett obemärkt liv i Nairobi

(10) ... dribbling out leaks that nobody much noticed, to publishing a flood of classified documents ... där han övergick från att låta ganska ouppmärksammade läckor sippra ut på nätet till att publicera en störflod av sekretessbelagda handlingar

(11) ... that went to the heart of America’s military and foreign policy operations ... som satte fokus på USA:s militära och utrikespolitiska insatser

(12) From being a marginal figure to join panels at geek conferences Från att ha varit en marginell figur, som inbjöds att delta i paneldebatter vid nördiga konferenser

(13) A new media messiah to some, he was a cyber-terrorist to others. En ny mediamessias för vissa, och en cyberterrorist för andra.
To coin a phrase, you couldn’t make it up.

... in tones tinged with both frustration and admiration

... that WikiLeaks was the one publisher in the world they couldn’t gag.

... we had our reasons to watch the rise of WikiLeaks

... the site had ended up hosting documents

... when the high court in London got into the habit of

One London firm of solicitors over-reached itself

... material sitting on WikiLeaks site.

The law looked a little silly.

... brought sharp questions into focus

... this new media baron

... who was this shadowy figure

... the spectacular bursting of WikiLeaks into the wider global public eye and imagination began

... the early accounts that were filtering out about the leak of a massive trove of military and diplomatic documents.

... the mysterious Australian nomad

... spent the summer voraciously reading his way into the material.
... now started marshalling wider forces
... började nu ställa upp styrkor på bredare front

The final piece of heavy journalistic lifting
Den sista biten i det journalistiska grovjobbet

... a new kind of cyber-messiah
... en ny typ av Cyber-Messias

The script became even more confused in December
Manuset blev ännu mer rörigt i december

... Jack Shafer, captured his character well in this pen portrait.
... Jack Shafer har skickligt fångat hans karaktär i det här porträttet.

... or, when moved to, he threatens to throw info-bombs
... eller så hotar han, när han blir ansatt, att [...] släppa informationsbomber

He’s a wily shape-shifter
Han är en knipslug kameleont

When [...] WikiLeaks itself sprang a leak
När WikiLeaks själv sprang läck

These wrinkles were mainly overcome – sometimes eased by a glass of wine
De här skrynklorna fick vi bukt med till största delen – ibland slätades de ut av ett glas vin

... global corporations caught up in the dazzle of unwanted scrutiny
... multinationella företag som oönskat hamnat i strålkastarljuset

The website’s initial instincts were to publish
Webbsidans första ingivelse var att publicera

Talking to the State Department, Pentagon or White House, as the New York Times did
Att tala med utrikesdepartementet, Pentagon eller Vita Huset, som New York Times gjorde

... was fraught territory
... var minerad mark

... on an even keel
... på rätt köl

... remarkable is how the sky has not fallen in
... anmärkningsvärt är hur himlen inte fallit ner

... there was a considerable thirst for the information in the cables – a hunger for knowledge
... fanns det en avsevärd törst efter den information som fanns i telegrammen – en hunger efter kunskap
(46) ... the occasional knowing yawns ... de tillfälliga menande gäspningarna

(47) ... information which wants go get out will get out ... information som vill komma ut kommer ut

(48) ... would like to imagine ways in which we could harness our resources again. ... skulle vilja komma på sätt där vi kunde slå samman våra resurser igen.

(49) ... clouded by differing ideas of patriotism. ... som fördunklades av olika idéer om patriotism.

(50) For some it simply boiled down to a reluctance to admit För somliga inskränkte det sig helt enkelt till en motvilja att erkänna

(51) ... in scouring the world for evidence ... när det gällde att finkamma omvärlden på bevis

(52) But there was also, among cooler legal heads, an appreciation Men några av de lite mer måttfulla juristerna hyste uppfattningen

(53) ... an unmediated account ... en ofriserad berättelse

Text 2

(54) ... evening had fallen. Nu var det kväll.


(56) ... the fruit of Davies’ eager pursuit of Assange ... en följd av Davies enträgna jakt på Assange

(57) There were repeated pilgrimages Man vallfärdade upprepade gånger

(58) ... in order to “discipline” the mainstream media. ... för att ”straffa” media

(59) ... braced himself to venture into the dangerous contents of the memory stick. ... tog han sig samman och vågade sig in på det farliga innehållet i usb-minnet.

(60) Its sheer bulk was overwhelming. Själva mängden i sig var övervåldigande.
This was a picture of the world seen through a much less scrambled prism than usual.

... now wanted the Americans frozen out of the [...] deal

... a recent profile of him by the New York Times veteran London correspondent John F Burns

... had apparently fallen into the hands of Heather Brooke

... unless the editors held a clear-the-air meeting

... a sleazy hit job against me personally

... in the scandal’s wake.

... to broaden the geopolitical impact

... if the paper agreed

As the meeting dragged beyond midnight

... there were no plans for sleazy hit pieces.

... all bets were off.

... both the New York Times and the Guardian themselves were now to be thrown out of the deal.

It was Der Spiegel’s turn to speak

The three publications were tied together

If Assange was cutting out the other two

We’ve thrown huge resources at it.
(78) Why on earth throw it away? 
Varför i all världen kasta bort det?

(79) ... at sleepy Badischer Bahnhof. 
... på den sömniga järnvägsstationen Badischer Bahnhof i Basel.

(80) ... a textbook example of European co-operation 
... ett skolexempel på europeiskt samarbete

(81) The weekly German news magazine normally starts distributing copies to newsagents over the weekend 
Den här tyska tidskriften, som kommer ut en gång i veckan, brukar normalt distribueras till tidningskiosker över veckoslutet

(82) Der Spiegel was supposed to have held all copies of its edition back. 
... var det meningen att man skulle hålla inne alla nummer av upplagan.

(83) ... were all waiting to push the button on the world’s biggest leak. 
... väntade alla ivrigt på att få trycka på knappen för världens största läcka.

(84) But the gods of news had decided to do things differently. 
Men ödet ville annorlunda.

(85) How America sees the world 
Hur USA ser på världen.

(86) ... the last two or three copies of the rogue Spiegel batch 
... de två eller tre sista Der Spiegel från tidningsbunten som kommit på villovägar

(87) Der Spiegel frantically messaged him to make contact. 
... medan man på Der Spiegel försökte få honom att kontakta dem.

(88) ... was pumping the embargoed articles out on to the internet. 
... pumpade ut de beslagtagna artiklarna på Internet.

(89) ... everything was paralysed by a little freelancer 
... allting lamslogs av en liten frilansare

(90) By 6pm the Guardian and everyone else agreed just to publish 
Klockan sex hade the Guardian och alla de andra enats om att publicera

(91) ... in front of a bank of screens 
... framför en uppsättning skärmar

(92) The word was taken up and spread instantly across the backbench 
Ordet fångades upp och sprids ögonblickligen tvärs över lokalen vidare till dem som var längst bort.

(93) The world’s biggest leak had gone live. 
Världens största läcka var därmed ett faktum.
(94) ... revealing the White House’s dirty secrets

(95) This data spillage was far bigger

(96) ... from the heart of the world’s only superpower.