

# *Translation Evaluation in the Team Translation Approach*

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# Overview

- Survey & translation “under investigation”
- Translation / assessment method
- Data for analysis
- Examples from analysis
- Next ...

# Survey & translation “under investigation”

- English into German translation
- ISSP 2007 „Leisure Time and Sports“
- New module

Translation:  $T_a + T_b (+T_{adv})$

- 2 professional translators, (+ 1 survey expert)

Review discussion:  $T_{rev}$

- 2 professional translators, 2 survey experts

Adjudication phase:  $T_{adj}$

- 1 survey expert, ... (?)

Pretest

Adjudication phase:  $T_{final}$

- 1 survey expert, ... (?)

Documentation

Method & data

## Evaluation strategies – Checking in terms of ...

1. ... denotative-pragmatic comparability
2. ... connotations
3. ... lexis
4. ... style
5. .... consistency and parallelism
6. ... cultural reality
7. ... grammar and orthography
8. ... collocations
9. ... other relevant issues



**Source item:** In your free time, how often do you  
**find yourself thinking about work?**

- **Suggested version:** *nicht abschalten können* [not getting away from it all, can't stop thinking about it all] → too broad in meaning

**UMa:** great translation this *abschalten können* but i am not sure whether the correct stimulus comes across  
**ÜBb:** yeah that could also refer to something else than work

## Source item: **Get together with** relatives

- **Suggested version:** *besuchen* [to visit] → too narrow in meaning

**UMa:** i was also considering *besuchen* [to visit] but that doesn't work since get together could be the other way around, too; *treffen* [to get together, translation eventually chosen] does not say anything about the place of the meeting; when you use *besuchen* [to visit] the place of the meeting is somehow already implied

**Source item:** **Attend** cultural events such as concerts, live theatre, exhibitions

- **Suggested version:** *teilnehmen* [to take part] → could be misunderstood

**UMa:** *teilnehmen* i am a bit sceptical here since *teilnehmen* could also have an active tendency and i don't want the respondents to think that they themselves are supposed to play theatre

- **Activity – participation** in general tricky issues
  - *Construct knowledge, (pretesting) experience aids translation*



## Evaluation strategies – Checking in terms of ...

1. ... denotative-pragmatic comparability

2. ... connotations

3. ... lexis

4. ... style

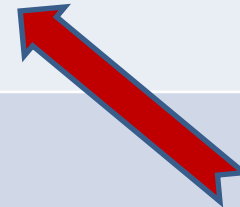
5. .... consistency and parallelism

6. ... cultural reality

7. ... grammar and orthography

8. ... collocations

9. ... other relevant issues



## Source item: Time in a **paid job**

- **Suggested version:** *Erwerbstätigkeit* [*paid job*]
- **Consiceness vs. do respondents understand by this term what we want them to understand?**

**UMa:** well you see *erwerbstätigkeit* is correct but it doesn't matter whether is it correct or not, what counts is that the respondents understand it

- **Job – work – paid work** in general tricky issues
  - *Construct knowledge, (pretesting) experience aids translation*

## Evaluation strategies – Checking in terms of ...

1. ... denotative-pragmatic comparability
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**Source item:** No enjoyment / **not much e.** / **some e.** / a fair amount of e. / a great amount of e.

- **Suggested version:** *wenig* [little] / *etwas* [some] vs. *nicht viel* [not much] / *etwas* [some]

**UMa:** if we distance ourselves a bit from the source [...] to what extent does it still match the source; on purpose i haven't looked at that now but simply looked at my german scale

- **Problem & solution:** National vs. international conflict, with international side winning (literal translation)

**Source item:** Very important / somewhat important / not very important / **not important**

- **Suggested version:** **nicht wichtig** [not important] vs. **überhaupt nicht wichtig** [not important at all]
- **Problem & solution:** National vs. international conflict, with national side winning after final adjudication (non-literal side, German scale design)

# Another problem showing the conflict between form and content

In the last 12 month, how many nights altogether did you stay away from home for holidays or social visits?

- I was not away
- 1-5 nights
- ...
- More than 30 nights
- Can't choose

# Some further problems showing the conflict between form and content

In the last 12 month, how many days of leave from your work, if any, did you take altogether [...]? 

- None
- 1-5 days
- ...
- More than 30 days
- Can't choose
- I do not work

# On the whole

- Evaluation strategies as *dynamic strategies*
- National vs. international (= comparability) concerns
  - What is a deviation?
  - What is harmful to comparability?
  - What is the needed degree of closeness / degree of freedom?



## Next ...

- ... comparison with other ISSP 2007 translations
- ... data analysis
- ... experimental design (?)
- ... validation of evaluation system

Thank you!