Translation Verification in the European Social Survey (ESS)

Sally Widdop (City University London, UK); Brita Dorer (GESIS, Germany) and Rory Fitzgerald (City University London, UK)

8th CSDI Workshop, London

24-26 March 2011

Outline of Presentation

- Summary of ESS translation process

- Summary of verification items and process

- Initial findings

- Reflections

- Next steps

ESS Translation process

- TRAPD procedures used in all five rounds to date

- Translation errors detected previously

- Trial of verification as additional stage in round 5
  - Appointment of cApStAn
  - Verification of 25 items

Verification intervention categories

- OK
- Adaptation
- Mistranslation
- Untranslated text
- Added information
- Missing information
- Consistency
- Register/wording
- Grammar / Syntax
- Layout/Visual issues
- Typo / Punctuation

Verification intervention categories – overview of usage

- Some verifier categories used in all countries

- Number of interventions made varied by country

- Not possible to know which comments / suggestions led to changes being made to translated questionnaires at this stage

Findings - Mistranslation

■ 'wrong translation, which seriously alters the meaning'

■ D38 – People have different ideas about the sentences which should be given to offenders. Take for instance the case of a 25 year old man who is found guilty of house burglary for the second time. Which <u>one</u> of the following sentences do you think he <u>should</u> receive?

   Prison sentence

   Suspended prison sentence

   Fine

   Community service

   Any other sentence

Findings – Added information

- 'any information given by the target version not given by the source version'

- D9 – How dissatisfied or satisfied are you with the way the police treated you the last time this happened?
    - 1. Very dissatisfied
    - 2. Dissatisfied
    - 3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
    - 4. Satisfied
    - 5. Very satisfied

Findings – Missing information

- 'any information which is given by the source version, which is not given by the target version'

- F6: You just told me that you live with your husband/wife/partner. Which one of the descriptions on this card describes your relationship to them?

Reflections...

- Initial assessment of the contribution of verification

- Improvements to the verifier intervention categories

- fewer categories? priority intervention categories?

- Improvements to the TVFF

- restructure the excel file? Use excel at all in future?

- Improve verifier training?

- enhance consistency in application of categories both within and between countries

- Provide background information on specific items?

Next steps...

- Numerical evaluation of the range of interventions

- Asses the range of interventions across countries

- Establish which categories the NCs and translation experts feel are most important

- Any lessons learned from the type of questions selected for verification?