



FACOLTÀ DI STUDI UMANISTICI

Lingue e culture per la mediazione linguistica

Traduzione

LESSON 5

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a.a. 2022-2023





What is translation?

What words come to your mind when talking about coherence & cohesion?

How do they influence the translator?



Coherence & cohesion

- Coherence: Making sense, the feeling that a text makes sense and that it is not a jumble of sentences.
- Cohesion: Showing togetherness; Connections in the text: Texture (Bateman 2008)
- Cohesion is only part of coherence in reading and writing.
- Cohesion is a guide to coherence, which is something created by readers in the act of reading a text.



- People do not communicate in grammatical but in semantic units (Ulrich 207)
- Grammatical unit: formal level of lg (organisation)
- Semantic unit: functional level of lg (use)
- Sentence: complete from the grammatical point of view, incomplete on its own (context + co-text)
- Coherence & cohesion build textuality: the text does not contain random unconnected sentences but linked ones, connected discourse, an integrated whole, organisation & linking of ideas



- > the translator (...) needs to be familiar w/ ways of organizing the content clearly (coherence) and connecting ideas & info across sentences to develop a topic (cohesion)
- > His/her “task is to identify the sequences and relations in the ST and reproduce them by means of pragmatically-equivalent TL devices in the TT” (Ulrich 243)

Grammar and textuality



People communicate in SEMANTIC units = functional level of language (use) (Ulrich 207)

Meaning = co-text and context

Textuality = coherence + cohesion (Dressler e Beaugrand)

- Cohesion: NETWORK of LEXICAL/ GRAMMATICAL relations between parts of the text. One element in the text is dependent on another for its interpretation. **SURFACE RELATION** (Baker 180)
- organize a text in a logical connection: pronouns, articles, deictics
- Anaphoric reference (to what comes before): ‘quando Giuda si impiccò, nessuno rimpianse la morte di quel traditore’.
- cataphoric reference (to what comes after): ‘lo so che domani partirai’
- cohesion = co-text : ex: ‘He said so’. He? So?

Grammar and textuality



- Cohesion?

‘I soffioni che si trova nei prati e nei campi sono gradevoli da mangiare. In primavera, in diversi paesi c’è l’abitudine di mangiare le foglie del soffione ancora tenere. C’è chi le fanno bollire e poi li mangiano con sale e pepe, e chi invece li mangiano crude in insalata. Le foglie del soffione di cui si mangiano in primavera si chiamano familiarmente “cicoria” o “insalata matta”. I soffioni hanno oppure anche un altro nome. Il bordo frastagliato della foglia del soffione ricorda un po’ una chiostra di denti acuminati ed è forse questo il motivo per cui c’è chi chiamano questa pianta “dente di leone’.

Grammar and textuality



- Cohesion: respect of the relations between parts of the text. One element in the text is dependent on another for its interpretation

‘I soffioni che si trova nei prati e nei campi sono gradevoli da mangiare. In primavera, in diversi paesi c’è l’abitudine di mangiare le foglie del soffione ancora tenere. C’è chi le fanno bollire e poi li mangiano con sale e pepe, e chi invece li mangiano crude in insalata. Le foglie del soffione di cui si mangiano in primavera si chiamano familiarmente “cicoria” o “insalata matta”. I soffioni hanno oppure anche un altro nome. Il bordo frastagliato della foglia del soffione ricorda un po’ una chiostra di denti acuminati ed è forse questo il motivo per cui c’è chi chiamano questa pianta “dente di leone’.



- Exophoric reference (outside)
- Endophoric reference (inside) – anaphoric (backward) v cataphoric (forward)
- Pragmatically coherent + cohesive (interrelated grammatically and lexically)
- 5 main devices:
 1. Reference
 2. Substitution
 3. Ellipsis
 4. Conjunction
 5. Lexical cohesion



Cohesion

- One element in the text is dependent on another for its interpretation -> a cohesive link is present between the presupposing & the presupposed items
- Reference, substitution, ellipsis & conjunction
- Reference: personal pronouns (*he, she, it, they*, etc.), definite article (*the*), deictics (*this/that, these/those, here/there*, etc.), *same, different, other, else, such*, etc. -> endophoric (anaphoric, cataphoric), exophoric



Cohesion: five main devices

1. Reference

Relation of identity between expressions in the immediate context

Ex. 'Mrs Thatcher has resigned. She announced her decision this morning' (Pronouns)

'Mrs Thatcher has resigned. This delighted her opponents'

Hercule Poirot sat on the white sand and looked out across the sparkling blue water. He was carefully dressed in a dandified fashion in white flannels and a large panama hat protected his head. He belonged to the old-fashioned generation which believed in covering itself carefully from the sun. Miss Pamela Lyall, who sat beside him and talked carelessly, represented the modern school of thought in that she was wearing the barest minimum of clothing on her sun-browned person.

(Christie, 1936: 196)

Reference



CO-REFERENCE: relations which are not strictly textual, but related to context and real-world knowledge

Mrs Thatcher – The Prime Minister –

There's a boy climbing that tree.

- a. *The boy's* going to fall if he doesn't take care. (**repetition**)
- b. *The lad's* going to fall if he doesn't take care. (**synonym**)
- c. *The child's* going to fall if he doesn't take care. (**superordinate**)
- d. *The idiot's* going to fall if he doesn't take care. (**general word**)
- e. *He's* going to fall if he doesn't take care. (**pronominal reference**)



- Translating singular personal pronouns with generic reference – sexist lg not explicitly gender-specific -> plural noun/plural personal pronoun
- Partitives (someone, somebody, anyone, anybody) + personal indefinites (everyone, everybody, no one, nobody) -> traditionally masculine as unmarked; used of they in informal speech
- Care in translating *LO* into English as both masculine & neutral
- *We*: reader-including and reader-excluding



- Informative texts: objective & focus on the message, informal tenor – there may be a difference between St & TT
- Vocative texts: reader-excluding *we* to create a more personal & confidential tone (advertising); reader-including to persuade to accept the truth & reliability of a message
- Rarely in the same sentence
- Need to interpret in the ST not to modify the communicative function of the text
- *They* as personal & impersonal pronoun-ambiguity



- Italian impersonal form *si* = one, you, we, they;
passive voice; people – thematisation issues,
tenor (one-formal, you-informal, normally
include the addresser & the addressee)
- Flexible use of the pro-forms (this v it,
unmarked for gender)
- Choice of *this, that, it* in a particular context: it
for writer's focus of attention, that non-focal
status (foregrounding)
- *It* – normally refers anaphorically to an already
topicalised entity; *this* is used to create new
topic focus



- Deictic reference: this/these (here & now, cataphoric ref.) v that/those (there & then, anaphoric ref.) (≠ w Italian)
- Informal texts: this/these tend to be associated w speaker's approval & that/those w disapproval
- This/these & that/those as determiners (≠ w Italian) – *the* for *this* & *that*
- *The* w anaphoric function v *the* w cataphoric function (news stories & novels – to catch the reader's interest & attention)



Articles

- ≠ w Italian -> in EN: indefinite, definite, zero
-> choice depends on noun and reference (specific/generic, anaph/cataph)
- Generic ref.: unshared, new info – associated w cataphora
- Specific ref.: info shared by the addresser & addressee – either anaphoric or cataphoric ref. Definite article = definite reference



Substitution & Ellipsis

- Substitution & ellipsis are highly dependent on context (Ulrich 233)
- Substitution is used at nominal, verbal & clausal level, more frequent in EN than in IT
- One/ones v ne
- Lo as co-referential pronoun it and as a substitute (*one*). *One* refers to an indefinite antecedent, *it* to a definite antecedent
- “Co-reference is a semantic relation that sets up a bond of cross-reference between two items that refer to the *same* thing” (Ulrich 235)

Substitution



do, one, the same

I like movies.
And I do.

You think Joan already knows? – I think everybody *does*. (*Does* replaces *knows*).

My axe is too blunt. I must get a sharper *one*. (*One* replaces *axe*).

A: I'll have two poached eggs on toast, please.

B: I'll have *the same*. (*The same* replaces *two poached eggs on toast*).



- The verbal substitute form *fare* in IT does not overlap w the EN *do*. Ellipsis is preferred
- Clausal substitution: so & not v lo, sì, no
- Also ellipsis can be nominal, verbal, clausal – nominal -> the headword is omitted v demonstrative reference in IT; verbal ell. -> repetition v elision of entire verbal group + contrastive function w change of auxiliary v substitution of *fare* in IT.



Ellipsis

omission if items which are nevertheless understood

Joan brought some carnations, and Catherine some sweet peas.
(ellipted item: *brought* in second clause).

Here are thirteen cards. Take any. Now give me any three.
(ellipted items: *card* after *any* in second clause and *cards* after *any three* in third clause).

Have you been swimming? – Yes, I have. (ellipted items: *been swimming* in second clause).

(Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 143; 158; 167)



Conjunctions

- Logical relationship between sentences + textual sequencing
- Explicit c.: consequently, rather, for instance, in short, in fact, however, moreover, ...)
- Implicit c.: to be inferred
- Function: discourse easy to be followed
- Signposts to drive the reader's understanding
- Discourse genres w informative function: translators apply TL conventions regarding linking devices in the TT
- Expressive texts: a stylistic feature of the ST – same effect in the TT



- Overt linkage – constraints; implicit linkage – interpretation of vagueness
- *Ossia*: an appositive or clarificative function – in EN = *that is* or *rather*
- Tenor of discourse: anyway, anyhow, what is more, all the same (informal); therefore, furthermore, nevertheless, nonetheless (formal), besides & however (relatively neutral)



Conjunctions

- a. additive: and, or, also, in addition, furthermore, besides, similarly, likewise, by contrast, for instance;
- b. adversative: but, yet, Cohesion: five main devices the other hand, nevertheless, at any rate, as a matter of fact;
- c. causal: so, consequently, it follows, for, because, under the circumstances, for this reason;
- d. temporal: then, next, after that, on another occasion, in conclusion, an hour later, finally, at last;
- e. continuatives (miscellaneous): now, of course, well, anyway, surely, after all.

(Baker 180)

Same conjunctions for different relations : CONTEXT

Verbs embed relations: follow; precede: temporal relation; cause: causal relation

In translation: strike a balance between naturalness (TL) and accuracy (ST)



Lexical cohesion

an item recalls the sense of another one

Ready suppliers of fun throughout the thirties and forties were the decadent pseudo-sovereign regimes of the West. More recently people have turned East for their targets, reflecting the new contact with communist countries and also the growing disenchantment with socialism.

(Baker 203)

The chain which links *East, communism* and *socialism*

+

Opposition to *West* (and also *decadent*)

Lexical cohesion involves **reiteration** and **collocation**

- Reiteration: repetition of items. SAME STRATEGIES OF REFERENCE BUT REFERENCE INVOLVES THE SAME IDENTITY.
- Collocation: items conventionally associated

Lexical cohesion



Repetition of Scottish/universal
(2,3,4) ; Lonrho (4,5,6); assets
(2,3).

Hyponym: assets / shares

Behavioural vice /
smoker/gambler

Synonym: Lonrho / company

Collocational chain: fortune,
assets, shares, business,
chairman, board, sale,
expanding, acquisitive

(1) I first met Hugh Fraser in 1977. (2) Charming, rather hesitant, a heavy smoker and heavy gambler, he had made such headway through his fortune that he had decided to sell his last major asset, the controlling shares in the business which his father had built up and named Scottish and Universal Investments. (3) Scottish and Universal had, among its assets, 10% of the British stores group, House of Fraser. (4) Lonrho bought 26% of Scottish and Universal.

(5) It was part of Lonrho's understanding with Hugh that he would stay on as Chairman of House of Fraser, but it gradually became clear that Sir Hugh was not on terms of mutual respect with most of his Board, and that the loyalty of his colleagues had been to his formidable father rather than to him. (6) They did not welcome the sale of Hugh's shares to Lonrho – and it was only natural, as a change was obviously in the air. (7) Lonrho was an expanding and acquisitive company, and House of Fraser was a quiet and pedestrian one.

(from *A Hero from Zero*, p. i)



- IN TRANSLATION: lexical networks COLLECTIVELY determine THE SENSE of the term IN CONTEXT
- WEB OF RELATIONSHIPS (Snell Hornby 1988, 69)
- Reproducing the same exact chain:
Impossible → shifts
- Superordinate, paraphrase, loans: different lexical chain
- Non-literary translation: Lexical relations closer to the ST
- Language vary in the level of lexical repetition allowed

... More in the next lesson on lexical cohesion

Coherence



Coherence: logic organisation, to reach a specific goal

Principle of non-contradiction and relation: events have to be connected according to a logical order

Are these texts coherent?

- Ex 1: Mio fratello non studia a questa università. Egli non sa che la prima università tedesca fu a Praga. In tutte le università c'è il numero chiuso. L'università ha un laboratorio linguistico.
- Ex 2: In luoghi dove il potere dello stato è così debole e mettersi contro i criminali significa rischiare la vita, è comprensibile che molti si adeguino, attratti da facili guadagni. (da tema delle scuole superiori)



Coherence

- Organization of meanings in relation to one another
- The elements of the text correspond to the natural, real-world order of events or sequences (Ulrich 209)
- Logical transition: time ordered sequences (narrative texts), order according to cause-effect sequence or argumentative discussion, phenomenon-reason, phenomenon-example; problem-solution; instrument-achievement.
- The sequence of coherent relations is usually stable from ST to TT

Which relationship can you highlight?



A popular cultural framework was proposed by Edward Hall (1976, 2000), in which he stated that all cultures can be situated in relation to one another through the styles in which they communicate. In some cultures, such as those of Scandinavians, Germans, and the Swiss, communication occurs predominantly through explicit statements in text and speech, and they are thus categorized as Low-Context cultures. In other cultures, such as the Japanese and Chinese, messages include other communicative cues such as body language and the use of silence. Essentially, High-Context communication involves implying a message through that which is not uttered. This includes the situation, behavior, and para-verbal cues as integral parts of the communicated message.

These differences in communication styles across cultures are expected to pose challenges to the ways in which websites communicate their messages most optimally



- The Parties desire to fix and determine by this agreement the rights and claims that will accrue to each of them in the estate and property of the other by reason of the marriage, and to accept the provisions of this agreement in lieu of and in full discharge, settlement, and satisfaction of all such rights and claims.
- Inflation, however, remained on a downward path. Against this backdrop, a key theme for the euro area in 2015 was strengthening confidence.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- The train left on time at 3 o'clock. Its first stop was in Cork. It arrived at destination after an hour.

Coherence and Implicatures



A: Shall we go for a walk?	A: what is Jane up to these days?
B: it's raining!	B: it's raining!
We assume B is answering because of coherence Possible interpretations: 1 let's not, it's raining; 2 ok, but we need an umbrella;	We assume B is answering because of coherence Possible interpretations: 1 i don't want to talk about it 2 you're out of line, let's change the subject

These meanings are non-conventionally IMPLIED = cooperation between speakers, when violated (flouted) a certain meaning is conveyed

Implications are conventionally embedded:

'how can you be so cruel?' = 'you are very cruel'

'isn't that an ugly building?' = 'it IS an ugly building'

'correct me if I'm wrong' = 'I know I'm right'