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From Theory to Practice: Translating Global Events A Case of Medical, Legal, and Business Translation

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INTRODUCTION

This dissertation presents a translation proposal from English into Italian of three specialised articles of Irish origin which deal with Covid-19 with reference to the Irish context from three different genre perspectives. The first article, published by the Irish Medical Journal, deals with Covid-19 from a medical point of view and analyses the effects of Covid-19 on the lungs, based on the data gathered by Irish Health Institutions, and how specific imaging exams, such as Chest X-ray and CT scan, can help diagnose the disease and establish its severity. The second article selected for this project is a business paper published by the Economic & Social Research Institute, which focuses on the effects of Covid-19 related unemployment on public expenditure in Ireland. The third and final source text is the first Act on Covid-19 published by the Irish government, which outlines the containment measures imposed on the Republic of Ireland territory to prevent the spread of the virus. The three areas of specialised translation that will be investigated are therefore medical, business, and legal translation. Online and paper dictionaries as well as three separate self-built corpora were used to carry out this translation project.

Specialised translation refers to that area of translation that deals with the transfer from one language to another of a message that uses particular linguistic features typical of Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP) (Scarpa 2008: 67). The articles are considered to be specialised texts for, even if they deal with a topic unfortunately known and experienced by the majority of the global population, they all analyse it from a very specific point of view, with the purpose of communicating a message that belongs to a specialised discipline, and that uses the appropriate LSP, characterised by highly technical terms and expressions.

This dissertation will be divided into three chapters. The first chapter will briefly introduce the concepts of *faithfulness* and *equivalence*, two of the greatest issues of translation history; the following sections will focus on discussing translation strategies and techniques, with particular attention towards specialised translation from English into Italian. The final section will take into consideration corpora and their importance during the translation process. The second chapter will present the source texts and their respective translations into Italian. The third and final chapter will have as its main focus

the explanation and justification of certain translation choices, with a detailed analysis of the strategies and techniques employed during the transfer process, to achieve a target text compliant with the target reader's expectations.

The choice of investigating specialised translation for my final dissertation was determined by the awareness of the demand for specialised translation services being considerably higher than that for literary translation services, with literary texts representing indeed less than 1% of the texts translated worldwide, compared to the 80% of specialised and technical texts (Scarpa 2008: 67). Knowing that pursuing a career as a literary translator would be incredibly hard, if not impossible, I wanted to give my final dissertation the purpose of helping me understand whether specialised translation could be the path I wish to follow in the future, since before this project I had never investigated this particular area of this discipline. The reason why I chose Covid-19 to be the common denominator that links the three source texts is that I wanted my project to be cohesive and somehow connected. Furthermore, the world we live in is undoubtedly highly globalised, partly thanks to translation itself, leading to the need for translators to be prepared to face translation tasks dealing with current topics and events. Covid-19, in fact, has been one of the most debated topics in the last two years and thus represented an ideal common denominator able to link the three different specialised translation areas investigated in this dissertation.

CHAPTER ONE

Translation Strategies and Techniques

The first chapter of this dissertation will have as its main focus translation strategies and techniques, with particular attention towards specialised translation from English into Italian, which will be illustrated after a brief introduction to the meaning of translation and its history. The last section will be dedicated to corpora and how they can be used during the translation process.

1.1 The Meaning of Translation

The word *translation*, derived from the Latin verb *traducere*, a combination of the words *trans*, “across”, and *ducere*, “to bring”, “to carry” (Treccani), means “to bring or carry across”. Translation is the mental process through which the meaning of a given discourse is transferred from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL) (Osman 2017). In the 1st century BC, Cicero believed that translators should not translate word for word, but should instead focus on meaning and sense (Ulrych 1992); the aim of any translator, when carrying out any translation task should therefore be that of transmitting the writer’s original intentions, thoughts, and opinions accurately and faithfully (Osman 2017), and evoking the same, or similar, mental images in the target reader’s mind, so as to come as close as possible to those triggered in the mind of the source audience. Terence, a translator in the Rome of the 2nd century BC, believed translation to be the art capable of transferring emotions from one culture to another (Tedeschi 2020 [1]); since ancient times, translation has, indeed, allowed communication and interaction between cultures, trade, the transmission of knowledge, and has had a major impact on the globalization of the economy (Language Network 2021).

1.2 Translation Issues: Faithfulness

In the history of translation, one of the most debated issues has been how faithful to the source text a translation should be (Ulrych 1992: 16). Some believed that the most appropriate approach when transferring the source text was word-for-word translation, with single words, phrases or sentences being translated individually, and a focus more on the source text and on the source language (Ulrych 1992: 16). Others, on the other hand, believed that a translation should be more sense-oriented, with a focus on the target

text and on the target language (Ulrych 1992: 16). There were many who theorised in between degrees of faithfulness: in the 1600s, for instance, John Dryden suggested that a good translation relies on the concepts of transparency and faithfulness (Tedeschi 2020 [2]). The content of the source text should be faithfully reproduced in the target text, but without the audience being able to perceive that it is a translation they are reading; this means that the same message must be conveyed, for the translator must not alter the sense of the original message, but the translation needs to be transparent, invisible, so that the target readers will be under the impression they are reading a text originally written in their native language (Tedeschi 2020 [2]). More recently, however, theorists started to agree on the fact that the approach adopted when producing a translation depends on many factors, such as the source text itself, the author, the priorities the translator decides to set for the project, and the type of message which is being conveyed; this leads many to affirm that it is impossible for only one approach to be universal, and that the focus should rather be on equivalence, and on producing a translation which can be considered as an equivalent version of the source text (Ulrych 1992: 22).

1.3 Translation Issues: Equivalence

It is impossible for a translation to be identical to its source text, but it should instead appear as an equivalent version of it, meaning that the two texts have certain things in common and operate in a similar way: for instance, they convey a similar message and serve the same purpose (House 2009: 29, 42). The concept of equivalence lies at the heart of translation theory; it is believed to be a relationship between the source text (ST) and the target text (TT), and it is the existence of this relationship that makes it possible for the TT to be recognised as a translation of the ST (Kenny 2001: 96). When a TT is considered to be an equivalent of the ST, it does not imply that it is the only possible equivalent, for many different translations of the same source text might exist and all be considered its equivalents, depending on how the translator interprets the message and the function of the source text (House 2009: 29). Catford (1965) identifies two kinds of linguistic equivalence: formal correspondence, when a linguistic category exists, and can be used in the same way, in both languages, and textual equivalence, which occurs when formal correspondence is not available; the linguistic item featured in the source text must

undergo a process of transposition, through which its word class or structure shifts (House 2009: 17-18).

1.3.1 Nida's Formal and Dynamic Equivalence

Another important distinction was drawn by Nida between formal and dynamic equivalence (House 2009: 30). Formal equivalence, later called “formal correspondence”, occurs when the target text reproduces as faithfully as possible the form, the content, and the different elements of the message presented in the source text (Munday 2016: 68). Dynamic equivalence, later called “functional equivalence”, on the other hand, is based on what Nida calls “the principle of equivalent effect” (Munday 2016: 68), and it focuses on evoking the same, or a similar, effect in the target readers, as the effect that has been evoked in the readers of the source text (Newmark 1987: 48). Dynamic equivalence seeks to sound as natural as possible to target recipients; grammar, lexicon and cultural references are therefore moulded to convey a message compliant with the target audience’s linguistic and cultural expectations (Munday 2016: 68).

1.3.2 Koller's Equivalence Frameworks

The concept of equivalence is still to this day object of controversy and debate, for it is shaped by many nuances and facets, which Koller attempted to systematize by presenting five different equivalence frameworks (House 2009: 31). Referential or denotative equivalence is listed as the first type of equivalence, for ST and TT words refer to the same thing in the real world (Kenny 2001: 97). The second type of equivalence, called connotative equivalence, is rooted in the belief that the words and expressions used both in the source and in the target text refer to the same concepts, and therefore trigger the same or similar images in both the source reader’s and the target reader’s minds, evoking the same or similar effects (Kenny 2001: 97). The same concept can thus be evoked by two completely different expressions (Vinay et al. 1977: 90): Some examples of connotative equivalence between English and Italian are: *it is raining cats and dogs/piove a dirotto* or *piove a catinelle, what goes around comes around/chi la fa, l'aspetti*. Text-normative equivalence relates to text types and their linguistic and textual features (House 2009: 31-32). When translating a letter, for instance, the translator should consider that the layout might have to be adjusted to be suitable for the target text type (House 2009:

31-32). The fourth type of equivalence identified by Koller is called pragmatic equivalence, dynamic equivalence for Nida instead, and can be found when the ST and TT words have the same effect on their respective readers (Kenny 2001: 97). The last equivalence framework suggested by Koller is formal-aesthetic equivalence, which refers to equivalence in aesthetic and formal characteristics between ST and TT, such as rhymes, alliterations, wordplays etc. (House 2009: 32).

1.3.3 House's Analytic Framework for Establishing Equivalence

House also introduces an analytic framework for establishing equivalence based on the principle that a translation should have an equivalent function to the original text (House 2009: 33-36). House theorises that a translator should focus on finding an equivalent field, tenor and mode to the ones referred to in the source text, with field meaning the subject matter of the text which is being talked about by the author, with tenor concerning the relationship between the author and the addressees, and mode referring to the medium of communication used to convey the message (House 2009: 33-36). These three sociolinguist dimensions combine together to define the register of the text, with register meaning the type of language used based on the communicative context (House 2009: 33-36). The translator should also adopt a genre equivalent to the one adopted for the original text, for genre is shaped by culture-specific lexico-grammatical features in relation to its communicative function (House 2009: 33-36).

1.4 Specialised Translation

Specialised translation concerns non-literary, specialist subject fields, such as science, technology, medicine, law, and economics (Gotti et al. 2006: 9). The main characteristics which allow specialised translation to be defined concern the purpose of the text itself, which in the case of specialised translation is the specialised communication of a specific specialised discipline (Sandrini 2006: 108), and the level of technicality of the language. Specialised translation requires specific knowledge of a specific subject, area, or industry, for highly technical and sector-based terminology and linguistic conventions are usually featured in these types of texts (Scarpa 2008: 188-191). It is indeed possible to distinguish between LGP, Language for General Purposes, and LSP, Language for Specific Purposes, where LSP is described as:

- a. The language used by a restricted group engaged with specific activities;
- b. The language using specialised terminology to refer to those activities, and the processes that they involve (Di Prisco 2018).

LSP is, undoubtedly, LGP-based, but it is characterised by specific terminology generally employed only in specific LSP domains (Di Prisco 2018). Therefore, the difficulty for the specialised translator is not only fully comprehending the source text, but also being able to reproduce the content in the target language with the same level of technicality and with the correct terminology and conventions typical of the specialised area, so as to produce a target text that sounds natural to the target audience (Scarpa 2008: 188-191).

1.5 English into Italian Translation: Strategies and Techniques

Two main approaches to translating have been identified to produce a translation: direct, or literal translation, and oblique translation (Vinay et al. 1977: 85). Literal translation is the word for word translation approach, which, in Newmark's words, "is correct and must not be avoided, if it secures referential and pragmatic equivalence to the original" (1988: 68-69). The message of the source text is translated and conveyed in the most direct way possible, with the main constituents of the source text reproduced in the target text, adapted so to respect the grammatical, lexical, and syntactic rules of the target language (Scarpa 2008: 146). However, as stated by Jean-Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet, literal translation is not always acceptable, for the message, if translated literally, might convey another meaning, or have no meaning at all; it might be structurally impossible, not have a corresponding expression, or it might not be suitable for the register that should be adopted in the target text; in these cases, the translator should therefore turn to oblique translation and employ all those strategies that will allow the re-elaboration of the way the message is presented (1977: 87). Translation techniques allow the translator to paraphrase the source text and reformulate the content, without changing its message; however, they should not be considered as universal rules, but as tools translators can use subjectively, preferring a specific technique over another one (Scarpa 2008: 148-149). Taylor, on the other hand, follows a different model, adopting the terminology of Malone, who proposes nine strategies translators can use when translating from English into Italian and vice versa: Equation and Substitution, Divergence and Convergence, Amplification and Reduction, Diffusion and Condensation, and Reordering, with the first eight

techniques presented as binary couples, for the first one of the two is appropriate when the second one is not and vice versa (Taylor 1998: 47). Some of the most important strategies will be analysed more in depth in the following sections.

1.5.1 Taylor's Model

In Taylor's model, Equation refers to automatic equivalence and could be thus compared to literal translation; on the contrary, Substitution is a form of reformulation of the source content, which needs to be employed when this automatic equivalence does not exist, prioritising the concepts expressed in the source text, rather than how they are linguistically expressed (Taylor 1998: 47-53). Divergence involves the choice of the most suitable term between a range of alternatives; the English word *cream*, for instance, could be translated either as *crema* or as *panna* in Italian (Taylor 1998: 53). Convergence is the opposite phenomenon, which occurs in situations such as when the Italian personal pronouns *tu/Lei/voi/Loro* all converge into *you*, or when the Italian terms *commercialista*, *ragioniere*, and *contabile* all converge into the English term *accountant* (Taylor 1998: 55). Taylor refers to the strategy through which the translator adds information to the source text as Amplification, and names the opposite strategy Reduction, which occurs when certain information is omitted, for it is not believed to be necessary or relevant for the target audience (Taylor 1998: 55-56). Diffusion regards the phenomenon for which certain expressions are presented with a higher degree of elaboration when translated; expressions such as *doveva arrivare alle tre*, where the Italian sentence contains the verb *dovere* in the imperfect form, need to be translated as *he was supposed to arrive at three o'clock*, with the source text elements expanded without the addition of extra information (Taylor 1998: 56-57). Another emblematic example given by Taylor is the translation of the English expression *Environment Department Air Pollution Report Findings Scandal*, which was translated as *Lo scandalo suscitato dai risultati del rapporto del Ministero dell'Ambiente sull'inquinamento dell'aria* into Italian (Taylor 1998: 57-58). Through the opposite process of Condensation, on the other hand, the translated noun phrase becomes more succinct and concise, a tendency peculiar to the English language in particular. Reordering concerns the syntax of the text and can be described as a process of inversion at word level, with an adjective-noun inversion such as *white horse/cavallo bianco* for

example, or even at sentence level, with whole phrases or clauses repositioned in a different order (Taylor 1998: 61).

1.5.2 Borrowing, Calque and Transposition

To express a concept which exists in the source language but not in the target language, or which does not have a metalinguistic equivalent in the TL, a SL word, or expression, may be borrowed and used in the target text (Vinay et al. 1977: 85). The use of this technique may also be motivated by the decision of the translator to introduce elements of the SL culture in the TT (target text), so to convey its “flavours” and “local colour” (Vinay et al. 1977: 85). *Social network*, *brand*, *e-mail*, and *manager* are only some of the many examples of English words borrowed by the Italian language (Parrini 2017). Taylor refers to borrowings as loan words and considers them as the most obvious form of Equation (Taylor 1998: 48). A calque, considered by Taylor as another form of Equation (Taylor 1998: 48), on the other hand, is produced when each element of a certain expression borrowed from a language is translated singularly and literally in the target language (Vinay et al. 1977: 85). The final product is:

- a. a lexical calque, which entails the semantic extension of the target term or expression, reflecting the meaning of the source term or expression (Fanfani 2010). One example could be the Italian verb *realizzare*, which originally means “to create”, “to produce”, that takes on the different meaning of “becoming aware”, from the English verb *to realise* (Lombardi Vallauri 2017).
- b. a structural calque, which reproduces the same structure of the borrowed expression (Fanfani 2010). An example could be *pallacanestro*, from the English term *basketball* (Fanfani 2010).

Through transposition, which concerns the syntax, the message of the source text is expressed in the target text with a different syntactic structure (Scarpa 2008: 149), a technique that would be considered by Taylor as a Substitution strategy. These changes concern:

- The parts of speech: The class of a word is changed into another word class, without altering the original meaning of the message (Vinay et al. 1977: 88). For example, a verb could be translated with a noun, or a noun could be translated as a verb etc. (Scarpa 2008: 149): *when he arrived.../al suo arrivo...*

(verb → noun); *an interview was conducted among a group of teenagers.../un gruppo di teenagers è stato intervistato...* (noun → verb).

- The enunciation, or utterance: a word could be translated as a sentence, a phrase could be translated as a sentence, or a sentence could be translated as a phrase etc.: *recessive tendency/ tendenza a tornare al passato* (word → sentence); *small wonder that.../non c'è quindi da stupirsi se...* (phrase → sentence); *the assets that remain after the liabilities are taken into account/Il valore delle attività al netto delle passività* (sentence → phrase) (Scarpa 2008: 149).
- The structure of the enunciation: the order in which the constituents appear within the sentence could be changed (Scarpa 2008: 149). Scarpa refers to this shift as a form of transposition, Taylor instead calls it Reordering.
- The voice of the verb, which could be changed from active to passive, or vice versa, from passive to active (Scarpa 2008: 149).
- The modality: *two coats should be applied/la soluzione ottimale è l'applicazione di due strati* (Scarpa 2008: 150).
- The tense and/or the aspect of the verb (Scarpa 2008: 150).
- The syntax of the enunciation, which involves switching between paratactic and hypotactic structures (Scarpa 2008: 150).

Transposition is either obligatory or optional (Vinay et al. 1977: 88).

1.5.3 Modulation

We can distinguish between free or optional and fixed or obligatory modulation, a technique that implies conveying the source text message by changing the point of view, the perspective (Vinay et al. 1977: 89). However, free modulation is seldom used when dealing with specialised texts, preferring instead fixed modulation, for a correspondence between two specialised expressions has already been established (Scarpa 2008: 150).

- Logic derivation: instead of using the word which refers to the process, the word indicating the tool used during the process is employed; the result is used instead of the tool (*x-rays/radiografia*), or the effect instead of the cause (*shorter working hours/riduzione della settimana lavorativa*) (Scarpa 2008: 150).

- Polarity of the sentence: a negative expression featured in the source text is translated with a positive expression in the target text (Vinay et al. 1977: 89). An example could be *the link has not been entirely broken/i legami sono ancora vivi* (Scarpa 2008: 150).
- Mechanisms which employ antonyms: from a dynamic to a static process, from animate to inanimate, from concrete to abstract etc. An interesting example of fixed modulation from an inanimate concept to an animate one is represented by the translation of the English expression *shift-work sleep disorder*, translated as *sindrome dei turnisti* in Italian; the cause of the syndrome, which is inanimate, is translated using an expression featuring the group of people which are affected by this syndrome (Scarpa 2008: 150).

1.5.4 Adaptation

In cases where a concept mentioned in the ST does not have a correspondent in the target language and culture, the translator has to find an equivalent situation to refer to (Vinay et al. 1977: 90-91). The solution to such translation issues is either explaining the concept in the target text or changing and adapting the content of the source text, featuring a more familiar situation to the target audience (Scarpa 2008: 150-151). Nida, with his sociolinguistic theory of translation, states that a translation should be carried out considering the differences between the ST and the TT readers, and therefore adapting the source text to the recipients' expectations and to their knowledge of the world; he sees translation as the process of adaptation of an original text to different linguistic and cultural norms and conventions, with this process of adaptation being necessary to achieve the same effect in both the source and target recipients (House 2009: 18). An emblematic example of adaptation is represented by one of the scenes from the movie *Inside Out* (2015) where one of the characters daydreams about hockey in the American version, but in the Italian version he daydreams about football, for hockey is not that popular among the Italian population and would not have evoked the same sensations in the Italian audience. The context referred to in the original text, represented by hockey, creates a situation of cultural inadequacy which needs to be adapted in order to achieve cultural adequacy: a more familiar context for target reader was therefore recreated by replacing hockey with football (Bastin 2001: 4-5). This particular process of adaptation

is referred to as localisation, which is described as “the linguistic and cultural adaptation of digital content to the requirements and locale of a foreign market” (Schäler 2001: 157).

1.5.5 Universals of Translation: Explicitation

Among the different translation methods and procedures, Scarpa identifies explicitation as an important solution to overcome translation issues. Explicitation, which Taylor, adopting Malone’s terminology, refers to as Amplification, is the phenomenon that occurs when the translator decides to explicit information which was left implicit in the source text (Scarpa 2008: 151), including an explanation that makes the target text easier to read and understand (Taylor 1998: 57). Bastin considers explicitation, which he refers to as expansion, as one of the forms of adaptation the translator can adopt to add information either within the text or in a foreword, in the footnotes or in a glossary (Bastin 2001: 4). Blum-Kulka, after researching and studying a set of translations from English into French and vice versa, concluded that this procedure can be considered as a universal strategy employed in any process of language mediation (Laviosa-Braithwaite 2001: 289). This particular process of explicitation ranges from the replacement of a pronoun with the noun it refers to and the addition of modifiers, qualifiers and conjunctions to the addition of extra explanations, repetitions of previously mentioned details and background information, so to lead the target readers to the same level of cultural knowledge of a source reader, enabling them to understand culture-specific information (Laviosa-Braithwaite 2001: 289).

1.6 Other Universals of Translation

Universals of Translation are considered to be specific characteristics of all translations, rather than in the respective source texts, which can be found independently of the languages involved in the translation process (Baker 1993: 243). Besides explicitation, other tendencies are towards lexical, syntactic and stylistic simplification, where lexical simplification implies conveying the same message with less words, syntactic simplification focuses on avoiding complex syntax, long sequences and sentences, whereas stylistic simplification aims at reducing and omitting repetitions (Laviosa-Braithwaite 2001: 288-289). Furthermore, according to the law of Normalisation, the textual relations, such as punctuation, the structure of the sentence or the organisation of

the text, present in the source text and typical of the source language are substituted with the conventional textual relations typical of the target language in the target text (Laviosa-Braithwaite 2001: 289-290). Toury was able to identify another universal of translation in the law of interference, according to which when translators carry out their task, they tend to source the target language from the source text, rather than from the target language itself, therefore transferring conventional features of the source text into the target text (Toury 1995: 275). The last universal tendency was identified by Baker, who suggests that certain lexical target language items may appear in the target text with an unusual and distinctive distribution, which differs from both their respective source texts and from texts originally written in the target language of interest (Baker 1993: 245).

1.7 English into Italian Translation: Textual Strategies

As observed by Musacchio (1995: 17-35), when translating from English into Italian a set of four business articles, published in different American business journals, for their publication in the specialised Italian business journal for banking institutions S.I.A.M (Sistema di Informazione e Aggiornamento Manageriale per banche), English texts tend to be placed on a more informal and colloquial level than texts originally written in Italian. Meeting the expectations of the target audience is of fundamental importance, which is why the translation into Italian should aim at making the necessary adjustments to raise the level of formality, so to reflect the language spoken by the target reader (Viezzi 1992: 58). Musacchio's translation project was conducted specifically on business articles, but her statements are also confirmed by another study, carried out by Viezzi (1992: 47-59), in which a series of medical articles, originally written in English, were compared to their Italian translations carried out by medical experts. The results of the study highlighted the Italian tendency towards the use of a more complex language, and of a more formal register, in stark contrast to the English tendency towards simplification. Therefore, this is one of the first things the translator should keep in mind when translating into Italian. Various solutions have been identified to elevate the level of the language.

1.7.1 Repetition, Connectives, and Other Procedures to Elevate Formality

Specialised English, especially scientific and technical discourse, tends to use many lexical repetitions, instead of referential synonymy or hyponymy, to achieve greater

clarity and ensure a direct and straightforward communication, whereas specialised Italian texts prefer to avoid repetitions and vary the terms and expressions used to obtain a higher style (Ulrych 1992: 263). When translating into Italian, the translator should therefore limit repetition, either using synonyms and synonymous expressions or re-elaborating how the concept is conveyed, through anaphoric references for example (Scarpa 2008: 156-159). Furthermore, specialised texts in English are generally made up of a series of short and simple juxtaposed sentences, a tendency not quite accepted in Italian, a language that prefers more complex and hypotactic structures (Scarpa 2008: 160-161). The translator should thus link, though the means of connectives and linking words, the sentences of the source text, so to form longer enunciations, enhancing fluency and simplifying readability (Scarpa 2008: 160-161). It is also important to select different linking devices, choosing from the wide range the Italian language offers, avoiding the repetition of the same ones (Scarpa 2008: 161-162). On a morphosyntactic level, both specialised English and Italian employ nominalisation, which is a process of word formation through which a part of speech is transformed into a noun; however, Italian specialised texts appear to resort to this process even more than the English ones, with the aim of avoiding subordination and, increasing lexical density, which corresponds to the parallel increase of semantic complexity, the degree of formality is consequently elevated (Scarpa 2008: 169). To obtain a less direct, more formal, and objective final translation, compliant with the target reader's expectations, especially when dealing with specialised fields and subjects, depersonalisation and objectivization are key procedures to focus the attention on the processes and activities, which can be achieved using impersonal constructions, or the passive voice (Scarpa 2008: 179). Lexicon and terminology should undergo a shift as well to contribute to the elevation of the level of the register, since the Italian language for specialised disciplines tends to be more formal and detached; some examples, taken from the field of economics, are represented by the translation of *to sell* and *to borrow*, respectively *collocare sul mercato* and *contrarre un prestito* (Scarpa 2008: 195).

1.8 The Issues of Specialised Translation

The primary translation challenge every translator must face when dealing with a specialised text is its lexical aspects; understanding the meaning of the content is the first

obstacle to be encountered, but transferring the message with the same degree of technicality, achieving at the same time idiomacity, is certainly challenging (Scarpa 2008: 186). Terminology, meaning the technical terms used to refer to specific concepts belonging to a specialised domain, is indeed considered to be the greatest issue for a translator who is not an expert of that field (Scarpa 2008: 188). Another problematic aspect is represented by LGP terms, used in specialised texts with a different sense or connotation, which, if translated without rendering this different meaning, may sound inappropriate, imprecise, or even completely inaccurate for the specialised context in which they appear (Scarpa 2008: 188). Further problems might sometimes be raised by what Ulrych calls Translation Equivalents, which refer to those situations where a certain word has multiple translations based on the context of use, or vice versa, where multiple words are translated with the same term in the target language; the difficulty for the translator is therefore being able to select the correct words for the context which is being dealt with (Ulrych 1992: 275). Collocation, which refers to how words tend to associate with one another and co-occur in a sentence, might represent an issue too, for this relationship between lexical items creates textuality and therefore generates expectations in the target readers which need to be satisfied (Ulrych 1992: 268). Translators should indeed be able to recognise collocational bonds and select the appropriate vocabulary when building the target text (Ulrych 1992: 268). Useful resources to solve these issues are corpora, which allow to study and research how the target language works and how it is actually used by native speakers of that language and which translators themselves can build based on the type of specialised text they have to translate.

1.9 Using Corpora in the Translation Process

A *corpus* is a collection, today in electronic form, of texts, generally designed according to precise criteria and for specific purposes, so to include only the types of language needed for the research (Kenny 2001: 59). Establishing precise criteria to follow when selecting texts to build a corpus to use during the translation process is crucial, and constant reference to the source text should be made. This decision should be made considering the topic of the text which is to be translated, its communicative function, its type and genre. The texts must be authentic, written by actual users of the language, and should function as an example of the kind of target text the translator wishes to produce.

A first distinction can be made between monolingual corpora, containing texts exclusively written in the target language and produced by real speakers of that language, and multilingual corpora, whose texts are written in different languages (Mosavi Miangah 2006: 3). Multilingual corpora can then be identified as parallel corpora, which consist of sets of texts produced in a given language and their respective translations in another language, or as comparable corpora, which feature translations into a given language and texts originally written in that language (House 2009: 77-78). A further distinction can be drawn between corpora featuring texts that use Language for General Purposes (LGP) and those that use Language for Special Purposes (LSP). LSP corpora are considered as specialised corpora, which collect texts dealing with specialised fields, topics, or subjects, such as medicine, economics, and legislation, and are used to observe how a certain specialised language operates (Sketch Engine). This translation tool is adopted by translators for it allows them to search for words and phrases within the texts of the corpus and study their occurrence frequency, and their concordances with the co-text to their left and right; corpora are also useful for identifying the most fitting equivalents, based on how experts actually use the different terms referring to a similar concept (Mosavi Miangah 2006: 4, 7). It is also possible to analyse collocations, a concept used to refer to how words generally associate with one another. Using corpora in the translation process can help translators enhance their performance and obtain a final product compliant with the linguistic expectations of the target readers.

CHAPTER TWO

From Theory to Practice

The second chapter presents three cases of specialised translation from English into Italian. As the world we live in is highly globalised, partly thanks to translation itself, translators should be prepared to face translation tasks dealing with current topics and events. Each source text, of Irish-English origin, will thus be dealing with Covid-19 from a medical, legal, and economic perspective, for this has been one of the most debated topics in the last two years and represented an ideal common denominator able to link the three different specialised translation areas investigated in this chapter. Three separate self-built corpora have been used alongside with monolingual and bilingual dictionaries during the translation process.

2.1 A Case of Medical Translation: Translation of a Medical Article Published by the Irish Medical Journal

Imaging of Covid-19; an Irish Perspective

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Covid-19 infection predominantly affects the respiratory tract. While the diagnosis is often made by a combination of clinical and positive findings on swab testing, imaging with Chest X-ray and CT are essential in establishing the severity of the disease and monitoring response. Imaging also sometimes suggests the diagnosis in

La prospettiva irlandese sull'imaging per la valutazione della gravità dell'infezione da COVID-19

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Nonostante la diagnosi di COVID-19, infezione che colpisce prevalentemente l'apparato respiratorio, venga confermata attraverso un tampone rino-faringeo, la gravità della malattia può venire stabilita solo attraverso una radiografia toracica o da una TAC, grazie alle quali è poi possibile stabilire la conseguente procedura di monitoraggio del paziente.

unexpected cases. In this article we review the current imaging in Ireland in symptomatic Covid-19 patients and compare our experience to other countries, particularly China and Italy. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is responsible for Covid-19; recently given pandemic status by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on 11/03/2020, with world-over cases rapidly rising. While RT-PCR screening is now considered the standard laboratory test for diagnosis of COVID-19, it may sometimes yield a false-negative result. This may relate to inadequate viral material in the sample or technical issues during nucleic acid extraction. In such cases with typical clinical manifestations, chest CT may prove to be an invaluable asset because it may show characteristic features of the disease even when the RT-PCR screening test is negative. In Ireland, a significant number of patients are being referred for chest imaging with symptoms of coughing and/or dyspnoea, potentially related to Covid-19. Two separate cohorts of patients are being encountered: 1) Referrals from General Practitioners (GPs) who tend to have mild to moderate symptoms where the

L'imaging, una tipologia di esame di diagnostica per immagini, permette inoltre di diagnosticare la presenza del virus in casi inaspettati. Il seguente articolo si pone come obiettivo quello di analizzare l'imaging radiologico in pazienti sintomatici in Irlanda e paragonare l'esperienza del paese a quella di altri stati, con particolare attenzione verso Cina e Italia. L'11 marzo 2020 l'Organizzazione Mondiale della Sanità (OMS) ha dichiarato che l'infezione da nuovo coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2), responsabile della patologia nota come COVID-19, era da considerarsi una pandemia, visto il rapido incremento di casi su scala mondiale. La procedura di laboratorio standard per la diagnosi della malattia prevede un test molecolare (RT-PCR); tuttavia, sono stati registrati casi di risultato falso negativo, presumibilmente a causa di una carica virale troppo bassa o di problemi tecnici durante l'estrazione dell'acido nucleico. In casi come questi, una TAC toracica potrebbe rivelarsi fondamentale, in quanto in grado di mostrare le caratteristiche tipiche dell'infezione anche in seguito ad un test molecolare negativo. In Irlanda, l'imaging viene utilizzato su un numero

diagnosis is not always suspected and 2) Emergency department patients and inpatients, often where the diagnosis is known or strongly suspected. The second cohort of patients often have more advanced symptoms and radiological findings. A chest x-ray, while not as sensitive as CT, is often sufficient in establishing disease activity. In the inpatient setting, a portable chest X-ray is usually sufficient. CT is reserved for more severe cases or complex cases where there is worry about alternative or co-existing pathology. While imaging such patients should be straightforward, it is important that adequate precautions are obtained to protect health care staff dealing with these patients. In particular, CT requires the patient to lie on the CT gantry table for up to 10 minutes, increasing risks of exposure and requiring appropriate sterilisation measures of the CT table to prevent cross infection. For this reason, portable chest X-rays are strongly preferred to CT for most patients in the majority of Irish institutions. Chest X-rays are often normal in early disease. As the disease progresses, patchy airspace changes occur. These are usually bilateral. There is often rapid progression over a few days with the

significativo di pazienti che presentano sintomi potenzialmente correlati al COVID-19, quali tosse e/o dispnea. Due diverse coorti di pazienti sono state individuate: 1) pazienti rinvolti da medici di base che presentano sintomi lievi o moderati, la cui diagnosi di COVID-19 non è sempre sospetta, 2) pazienti, ricoverati in pronto soccorso e non, con infezione accertata o sospetta, che presentano sintomi più gravi e ulteriori tracce dell'infezione vengono evidenziate anche dall'imaging radiologico. Una radiografia del torace, anche se meno sensibile di una TAC, è comunque in grado di stabilire l'attività della malattia. Per i pazienti ricoverati infatti, la strumentazione portatile per effettuare l'RDX torace è generalmente sufficiente. La TAC viene invece riservata a casi più gravi e complessi in cui si sospetta la presenza di ulteriori patologie. Nonostante l'uso della tecnica di imaging per questi pazienti permetta di ottenere un risultato in maniera semplice e diretta, è comunque importante adottare le precauzioni necessarie per la protezione del personale sanitario che si occupa di questi pazienti, in quanto il paziente dovrà rimanere sdraiato sul lettino per dieci minuti, aumentando così il rischio di esposizione al virus e

bilateral patchy airspace opacities progressing to an Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) type pattern (diffuse bilateral coalescent opacities) (See Case 1).

implicando l'uso di misure di sterilizzazione appropriate per la disinfezione del lettino, in modo da prevenire la diffusione del virus. La strumentazione portatile è per questo largamente preferita alla TAC nella maggior parte delle istituzioni sanitarie irlandesi. Nello stadio iniziale della malattia, la radiografia generalmente non riporta alcuna anomalia. Con lo sviluppo dell'infezione, si registrano cambiamenti disomogenei, solitamente bilaterali, degli spazi aerei, che in pochi giorni, da opacità polmonari non omogenee progrediscono rapidamente in Sindrome da distress respiratorio acuto (ARDS) (opacità diffuse bilaterali coalescenti) (Si veda il Caso 1).

Case 1: 54-year-old patient with dyspnoea, cough and pyrexia.

Figure 1(a)



Figure 1(b)



Figure 1(a): Day 1 CXR: There are only minor patchy airspace opacities in the bilateral lower zones

Figure 1(b): Day 7 CXR: Marked progression

Caso 1: paziente di 54 anni con dispnea, tosse e piressia

Figura 1(a)



Figura 1(b)



Figura 1(a): Giorno 1: l'RX torace evidenzia opacità polmonari bilaterali, minori e disomogenee localizzate ai lobi inferiori

Figura 1(b): Giorno 7: l'RX torace evidenzia la marcata progressione dell'infezione caratterizzata dallo sviluppo di opacità

with development of multifocal airspace opacities and more confluent consolidation

polmonari multifocali con consolidamento più confluente (per consolidamento si intende un'opacizzazione più densa che oscura i margini dei vasi e le pareti delle vie aeree).

Interestingly pleural effusions are a rare feature of this disease. This is a very useful differentiating feature and may help distinguish Covid-19 pneumonia from other causes of dyspnoea such as cardiac failure. Of course, some patients may have co-existing disease with Covid-19 disease on a background of emphysema or cardiac failure. This makes evaluation more difficult. There does seem to be a relationship between pre-existing lung and cardiac disease and severity of Covid-19 pneumonia. It seems smoking may particularly have an impact on the severity of disease on imaging. In the literature, for majority of documented COVID-19 cases, the initial chest CT tends to show some abnormality, even if mild. Some patients without any evident symptoms, who were imaged solely on the basis of exposure, have abnormal CT findings. On CT, the imaging features include bilateral, multi-lobar ground glass opacities. These often have a peripheral or posterior distribution. The lower lobes are most commonly affected. As the disease progresses, crazy paving and

Versamenti pleurici sono invece raramente riscontrati nella malattia da COVID-19. Questa caratteristica è dunque molto utile per distinguere la polmonite da COVID-19 da altre condizioni che potrebbero causare dispnea, come per esempio l'insufficienza cardiaca. Naturalmente, alcuni pazienti potrebbero essere affetti da patologie preesistenti che hanno causato un enfisema polmonare o l'insufficienza cardiaca, e ciò rende il processo di valutazione più complicato. Effettivamente, sembrerebbe che esista una correlazione tra malattie respiratorie e cardiovascolari preesistenti e la gravità della polmonite causata dal COVID-19. È stato inoltre rilevato che fumare potrebbe avere un particolare impatto sulla gravità della malattia rilevata attraverso l'imaging. Secondo la letteratura disponibile, per la maggioranza dei casi documentati di COVID-19 la prima TAC al torace mostra alcune anomalie, sebbene lievi. Anche in alcuni pazienti senza sintomi evidenti, sottoposti all'esame di imaging solo perché venuti a contatto con soggetti

consolidation become the dominant pattern. The next stage of progression is overt consolidation (See Case 2).

positivi, la TAC evidenzia alcune anomalie, incluse opacità bilaterali multilobari a vetro smerigliato (Ground Glass Opacities – GGO), spesso aventi distribuzione periferica o posteriore. L'infezione colpisce maggiormente i lobi polmonari inferiori. Con la progressione della malattia, il pattern "crazy-paving" e il consolidamento parenchimale polmonare diventano dominanti.

Case 2: 78-year-old patient with productive cough and dyspnoea.

Figure 2(a)

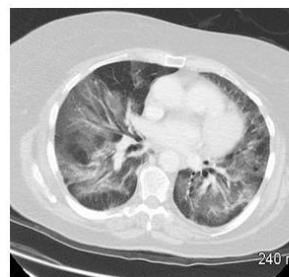


Figure 2(b)



Figure 2(a) & 2(b): CT Thorax: Lung windows. There are multifocal central and peripheral ground-glass opacities involving all lobes of the lungs bilaterally with lower zone predominance.

This again tends to be bilateral and peripheral in nature with the lower lobes being most involved. Lymphadenopathy and pleural effusions are uncommon on CT; useful distinguishing features². Pericardial effusions and pneumothorax are also uncommon but may occur with disease progression. The greatest

Caso 2: Paziente di 78 anni con tosse grassa e dispnea

Figura 2(a)

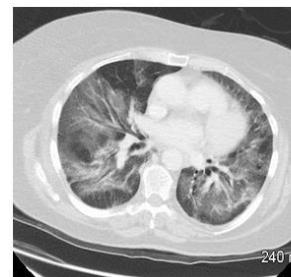


Figura 2(b)

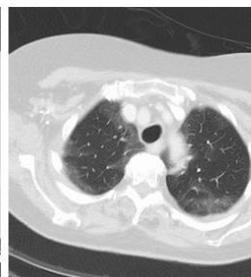


Figura 2(a) e 2(b): la TAC Torace della finestra polmonare mostra opacità multifocali a vetro smerigliato, centrali e periferiche, che hanno colpito tutti i lobi di entrambi i polmoni, con predominanza del lobo inferiore.

Lo stadio seguente nello sviluppo della malattia è il consolidamento estensivo, generalmente bilaterale e periferico, che sembra coinvolgere maggiormente i lobi inferiori (Si veda il Caso 2). Linfoadenopatia o versamenti pleurici significativi sono raramente riscontrati nella TAC, caratteristica che permettere

severity of CT findings seems to occur at around day 10 after symptom onset. ARDS is the most common indication for transferring patients with COVID-19 to the ICU and is also the major cause of ICU death in these patients. Patients that survive usually start to show improvement in their imaging after week 2 of their disease. There is a gradual improvement with resolution of the air space disease and consolidation.

When compared to the general literature on Covid-19 infections, the presentation in Ireland appears to be very similar to cases in the rest of the world, in particular the Italian and Chinese situations. The pattern of imaging features we have encountered so far in Ireland is in keeping with the described CXR and CT thorax features of Covid-19 from other countries. It is important that the patterns found on imaging should be used in conjunction with clinical and biochemical studies as they are not specific to Covid-19 and can be seen in other disease processes. It is probable that our data will grow over the coming weeks; hopefully the pattern of recovery and whether there are any long-term imaging sequelae will become evident. In the meantime, for Irish hospitals, we would advocate chest X-

di distinguere l'infezione da nuovo coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 da altre patologie. Anche la presenza di versamenti pericardici e pneumotorace è poco comune, ma potrebbe verificarsi con lo sviluppo della malattia. Dalla TAC sembrerebbe emergere che le condizioni più gravi causate dall'infezione si registrino al decimo giorno dalla prima comparsa dei sintomi. La Sindrome da distress respiratorio acuto è l'indicatore più comune per il trasferimento in terapia intensiva dei pazienti affetti da COVID-19 e rappresenta inoltre la causa più comune per la morte di tali pazienti. Dall'imaging condotto su pazienti sopravvissuti si può notare che i primi miglioramenti si verificano dopo due settimane dalla malattia. La regressione della malattia si verifica gradualmente, con un progressivo miglioramento della condizione delle vie aeree e dei consolidamenti.

Se comparata alla letteratura generale esistente sulle infezioni da COVID-19, la situazione in Irlanda sembra essere molto simile ai casi registrati nel resto del mondo, in particolare a Cina e Italia. Il pattern dell'infezione rilevato fino ad ora in Irlanda attraverso l'imaging corrisponde alle caratteristiche del

ray as the mainstay of imaging and follow up of Covid-19 patients.

COVID-19 rilevate attraverso RX Torace e TAC Torace anche da altri paesi. Questi pattern non sono tuttavia specifici esclusivamente della malattia da COVID-19, ma possono essere osservati anche in altri processi patologici, ed è dunque importante che vengano utilizzati insieme a studi clini e biochimici. È probabile che i dati a disposizione aumentino nelle prossime settimane, sperando di poter individuare un pattern di guarigione e di stabilire se ci siano e quali siano le eventuali conseguenze a lungo termine dell'infezione. Nel frattempo, si raccomanda agli ospedali irlandesi di utilizzare l'RX Torace come tecnica di imaging principale per poi stabilire la conseguente procedura di follow up per i pazienti affetti dal virus.

2.2 A Case of Business Translation: Translation of Some Passages Taken from a Business Paper Published by the Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI)

The Potential Costs and Distributional Effect of Covid-19 Related Unemployment in Ireland

Keelan Beirne, Karina Doorley, Mark Regan, Barra Roantree and Dora Tuda

3. Simulating the Effect of Covid-19 on Income Distribution and the Exchequer

The pandemic and subsequent policy response has led to an unprecedented rise in unemployment, with the Live Register (including PUP and TWSS applications) showing an increase of 330,734 from February to March (CSO, 2020b). These figures suggest a 12 percentage point rise in unemployment over this period, which would more than triple the headline figure from 4.8 per cent to 16.8 per cent with more job losses expected in the coming weeks.⁶ Eichenbaum et al. (2020) show that quarantine measures can cause severe recessions, while many leading commentators and policymakers are predicting a severe and possibly prolonged global downturn (Baldwin and di Mauro, 2020). At the time of writing, weekly payments of the Covid-19 PUP exceeded 500,000 while 39,000

Il Potenziale Costo e gli Effetti Distributivi della Disoccupazione Causata dal Covid-19 in Irlanda

Keelan Beirne, Karina Doorley, Mark Regan, Barra Roantree and Dora Tuda

3. Simulazione degli Effetti del Covid-19 sulla Distribuzione del Reddito e sulle Finanze dello Stato

La pandemia, e le politiche adottate in risposta, hanno portato ad un aumento del tasso di disoccupazione senza precedenti; il Live Register (registro dei lavoratori sul territorio irlandese utilizzato specialmente come indice per il calcolo del tasso di disoccupazione) ha registrato infatti un incremento di 330.734 lavoratori disoccupati da febbraio a marzo 2020, comprensivo anche delle richieste per l'ottenimento del PUP (Pandemic Unemployment Payment – Indennità Covid-19), un'indennità di sostegno emessa dal governo in favore dei lavoratori che abbiano perso il loro impiego a causa dell'emergenza sanitaria, e delle richieste per l'ottenimento del TWSS (Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme), un sussidio per i lavoratori dipendenti emesso

employers had registered with the Revenue Commissioners for the TWSS. Job losses have not and will not be evenly distributed across industry or occupation.⁷ Heavier job losses are projected to be experienced in the retail, accommodation and food service activities.

To simulate the effect of the Covid-19 unemployment shock, we use the 2017 European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). The survey contains detailed information on the incomes and labour market participation of over 5,000 households. These data are uprated to be representative of the 2020 population in terms of income distribution and linked to EUROMOD, the EU tax-benefit model.⁸ EUROMOD models the direct tax and benefit system in Ireland for 2020.

We consider three scenarios for the projected increase in unemployment as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. In our central ‘medium’ scenario (which we focus on in the following section), we simulate the effect of around 600,000 individuals losing their jobs.⁹ We also provide estimates for a ‘low’ and ‘high’ scenario in the Appendix, where job losses are assumed to amount to roughly

direttamente dal datore di lavoro (CSO, 2020b). Il numero registrato dal Live Register corrisponderebbe ad un aumento del 12% della disoccupazione in soli due mesi, che dal 4,8% sarebbe più che triplicato fino a raggiungere il 16,8%, e sarebbe destinato ad aumentare ulteriormente nelle prossime settimane⁶. Eichenbaum et al. (2020) evidenziano come le misure di quarantena per il contenimento del contagio possano causare forti recessioni, mentre i principali esperti del settore e legislatori prevedono una forte, e possibilmente prolungata regressione dell’economia mondiale (Baldwin and di Mauro, 2020). Al momento della redazione di questo articolo, i pagamenti settimanali per il PUP sono più di 500.000 e 39.000 datori di lavoro hanno richiesto il TWSS.

La perdita di posti di lavoro non è e non sarà distribuita uniformemente tra i diversi settori e occupazioni.⁷ Ci si aspetta che la perdita di lavoro più massiccia riguarderà maggiormente il settore delle vendite al dettaglio e le attività dei servizi di alloggio e di ristorazione.

Per simulare l’impatto dello shock sulla disoccupazione causato dal COVID-19, verrà utilizzato il sistemato statistico Eu-Silc (European Union Statistics on

400,000 and 800,000 respectively. These are in addition to those already unemployed, estimated by the CSO to be 120,000 in February 2020 (CSO, 2020a). In each case, job losses are simulated to be more concentrated in the sectors projected to be most at risk¹⁰ and are assumed to last for the full quarter we study.¹¹ We estimate the effect of this quarter of economic disruption on incomes and on government revenue from direct taxation and social welfare expenditure.

Income and Living Conditions) del 2017, un'indagine sul reddito e sulle condizioni di vita che rivela informazioni dettagliate riguardo il reddito e la partecipazione al mercato del lavoro di più di 5.000 famiglie. Questi dati sono stati adeguati utilizzando il modello europeo di microsimulazione fiscale EUROMOD, sul quale si basano il sistema di imposte dirette e i sistemi previdenziali in Irlanda per il 2020, in modo tale da rappresentare la popolazione irlandese nel 2020 in termini di distribuzione del reddito⁸.

Verranno qui di seguito considerati tre diversi scenari per l'aumento del tasso di disoccupazione previsto in seguito alla pandemia di COVID-19. Lo scenario centrale, che prenderà in considerazione il dato medio, e che verrà affrontato nella sezione seguente, simula l'effetto causato dalla perdita di 600.000 posti di lavoro⁹. Nell'Appendice, verranno invece fornite delle stime per uno scenario a "basso" e "alto" tasso di disoccupazione, in cui si prevede rispettivamente una perdita di circa 400.000 e 800.000 posti di lavoro. Queste cifre vanno ad aggiungersi al numero di lavoratori già disoccupati, che secondo le stime del CSO (Central Statistics Office) ammonterebbe a 120.000 a febbraio 2020 (CSO, 2020a). In tutti gli scenari, la simulazione vedrà i

Given these unemployment scenarios, we also consider four policy scenarios:

A. No discretionary policy response: Unemployment rises sharply and persists for three months. The tax-benefit system applied to this scenario is that in place in February 2020, i.e. it does not account for any pandemic related discretionary policy changes. Comparing this scenario to the baseline (with no unemployment shock) gives the scale of the income shock in the absence of any changes to the tax and benefit system.

B. PUP: Unemployment rises as in Scenario (A). The Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) is available for three months to all those who lose their jobs as a result of the pandemic, with anyone previously claiming Working Families Payment eligible to continue receiving the benefit (the amount is assessed at their new level

tagli all'occupazione concentrati soprattutto nei settori che si pensa saranno maggiormente a rischio¹⁰ per tutto il trimestre oggetto dello studio¹¹. Verrà stimato l'effetto che la perturbazione economica di questo trimestre avrà sul reddito dei cittadini e sulle entrate pubbliche derivanti dalla tassazione diretta e dalle spese per il welfare sociale.

Oltre agli scenari relativi alla disoccupazione, verranno presi in considerazione anche quattro diversi scenari politici.

A. Nessuna politica discrezionale di risposta: il tasso di disoccupazione aumenta drasticamente e persiste per tre mesi. Il sistema di agevolazioni fiscali applicato a questo scenario è quello in vigore nel febbraio 2020, che non tiene quindi conto di eventuali cambiamenti di politica discrezionale legati alla pandemia. Il confronto tra questo scenario e quello di base, senza shock sulla disoccupazione, evidenzia l'entità dello shock sul reddito in assenza di modifiche al sistema fiscale e previdenziale.

B. PUP: Il tasso di disoccupazione aumenta come nello scenario A. Il PUP viene reso disponibile per tre mesi a tutti i lavoratori che abbiano perso il loro

of income). Those who are better off on contributory Jobseekers Benefit than PUP claim the former. An extra month of fuel allowance is also paid to recipients of this means-tested payment.

C. PUP + TWSS: In this scenario, we model the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS) as being fully in place in addition to the PUP.¹² We assume that some of those employees eligible for the TWSS who lose their jobs in scenarios A and B are instead retained by their employer. Unemployment rises by 300,000 in each unemployment scenario with the remainder of shocked workers moving onto the TWSS.¹³ Employers do not top up the salaries of workers benefitting from the TWSS.

D. PUP + TWSS + top-up: This scenario is similar to Scenario C except that employers top up the salaries of those employees benefitting from the TWSS to the maximum amount allowed (100 per cent of their previous net earnings). The top-up is subject to income tax, USC and a reduced (0.5 per cent) rate of employer PRSI but not subject to employee PRSI.

impiego a causa della pandemia, anche a coloro che avessero precedentemente percepito il Working Families Payment (WFP), un pagamento settimanale esente da imposte per i dipendenti che percepiscono una retribuzione bassa con figli, idonei per continuare a percepirla, con l'importo calcolato in base al loro nuovo livello di reddito. Coloro che si trovano in una situazione migliore con il sussidio contributivo di disoccupazione rispetto al PUP richiedono il primo. Un mese in più di sussidio per il carburante viene percepito anche da coloro che ricevono questo tipo di indennità.

C. PUP + TWSS: In questo scenario, si considera il Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS) come pienamente in vigore in aggiunta al PUP¹². Si ipotizza che parte dei lavoratori idonei per l'ottenimento del TWSS che hanno perso il lavoro nello scenario A e B, non vengano licenziati dal datore di lavoro. In ogni scenario relativo alla disoccupazione le perdite di posti di lavoro corrispondono a 300.000, mentre il resto dei lavoratori dipendenti fanno richiesta per il TWSS¹³. I datori di lavoro non integrano gli stipendi dei dipendenti che beneficiano già del TWSS.

D. PUP + TWSS + integrazione:
Questo scenario presenta una situazione

simile a quella descritta nello scenario C, se non per il fatto che i datori di lavoro integrano gli stipendi dei dipendenti che beneficiano già del TWSS e ne ricevono l'importo massimo consentito (100% del loro precedente guadagno netto). Queste integrazioni sono soggette all'imposta sul reddito, alla USC (Universal Social Charge), un'imposta sul reddito complessivo, e a un'aliquota ridotta dello 0,5% della Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI), un contributo per l'assicurazione sociale, pagato dal datore di lavoro; non sono però soggette ai contributi PRSI pagati dai lavoratori stessi.

4. Empirical Analysis

4.1 Exchequer impact

Table 1 shows the estimated Exchequer cost per quarter of each of the four policy scenarios for a medium unemployment shock (results for the ‘low’ and ‘high’ unemployment scenarios can be found in Appendices B and C respectively).

The estimated Exchequer cost for Scenario A (no policy change) is €4.1 billion per quarter. A large part of this figure is made up of a reduction in income tax receipts of €1.3 billion, resulting from a €6.4 billion reduction in market income. There is also a reduction of (employee, employer and self-

4. Analisi Empirica

4.1 L'impatto sulle finanze dello stato

Nella Tabella 1 vengono mostrate le spese pubbliche stimate per trimestre per ciascuno dei quattro scenari politici elaborati in risposta allo shock sulla disoccupazione media che dovranno essere sostenute dal Ministero delle Finanze (i risultati per gli scenari che prevedono un tasso di disoccupazione basso e alto possono essere ritrovati rispettivamente nelle Appendici B e C). Il costo stimato per lo scenario A, che non prevede alcun cambiamento delle politiche, è di 4,1 miliardi di euro a trimestre. Gran parte di questa cifra è

employed) PRSI receipts of €0.8 billion, an increase in spending on means-tested welfare of €70 million and an increase in non means-tested welfare expenditure of €1.9 billion.

In Scenario B, which adds the PUP and increased fuel allowance, the estimated cost to the Exchequer rises to €4.9 billion per quarter. This is driven by a large increase in non means-tested welfare expenditure (from €1.9 billion to €2.8 billion) arising from the granting of PUP rather than standard Jobseeker's Benefit to most claimants. This is somewhat offset by a smaller reduction in direct tax revenue (as the PUP is subject to income tax) but there is also a small increase in means tested welfare expenditure (from €70 million to €80 million), due to the extension to fuel allowance and the ability for those in receipt of PUP to retain any eligibility for Working Families Payment at their new level of income.

Scenario C introduces the TWSS and simulates the effect of 300,000 remaining unemployed and the remainder returning to their employers' payroll under this scheme.¹⁴ This scenario sees lower income tax receipts compared to Scenario B as the subsidy is paid as a proportion of average net wages

costituita da una diminuzione delle entrate derivanti dalle imposte sul reddito di 1,3 miliardi di euro, derivante a sua volta da una diminuzione del reddito di mercato di 6,4 miliardi di euro. Anche le entrate derivanti dall'assicurazione sociale relativa alle retribuzioni di lavoratori dipendenti, datori di lavoro e lavoratori autonomi (Pay Related Social Insurance - PRSI) subiscono una diminuzione di 0,8 miliardi di euro; i sussidi pubblici basati sul reddito subiscono un incremento di 70 milioni di euro, mentre quelli non basati sul reddito vengono incrementati di 1,9 miliardi di euro.

Nello scenario B, in cui vengono aggiunti il PUP e un aumento del sussidio per il carburante, il costo stimato che dovrà essere sostenuto dal Ministero delle Finanze sale a 4,9 miliardi di euro per trimestre, a causa del forte aumento delle spese per il welfare non soggetto a particolari condizioni di reddito (da 1,9 miliardi di euro a 2,8 miliardi di euro), derivante dalla concessione del PUP alla maggior parte dei richiedenti piuttosto che del sussidio di disoccupazione standard. Ciò è in qualche modo compensato da una minore riduzione del gettito fiscale diretto, poiché il PUP è soggetto all'imposta sul reddito, ma si

and not all employees are entitled to the €350 or €410 payment.¹⁵ There is a sizable decrease (from €2.8 billion to €1.4 billion) in additional non means-tested welfare expenditure coupled with expenditure of €1.2 billion on the TWSS. The net Exchequer impact of Scenario C is slightly lower (-€4.8 billion) than that of Scenario B (-€4.9 billion).

In Scenario D, employers are assumed to top-up the wages of their employees beyond the wage subsidy to the maximum allowed level. This results in higher income tax receipts (the shortfall moving from €1.2 billion to €1.1 billion). It also results in a slightly smaller rise in means-tested social welfare expenditure. The net Exchequer cost falls from -€4.8 billion to -€4.5 billion.

Appendix B and C provide the Exchequer cost for the ‘low’ and ‘high’ unemployment scenarios. The estimates appear to be reasonably scalable. For example, in Scenario D, the next Exchequer impact of around 400,000; 600,000 or 800,000 job losses is €3.2 billion, €4.5 billion or €5.8 billion, respectively. Extrapolating from these three scenarios, we estimate that a rise in unemployment could reduce direct tax revenues and increase welfare spending by around €800 million per quarter for

verifica anche un lieve aumento delle spese per il welfare soggetto a condizioni di reddito (da 70 milioni a 80 milioni di euro), a causa dell'estensione del sussidio per il carburante e la possibilità di coloro che sono idonei al ricevimento del PUP di ottenere anche il Working Families Payment secondo il loro nuovo livello di reddito.

Lo scenario C, nel quale viene introdotto il TWSS, simula l'effetto causato da 300.000 lavoratori disoccupati, mentre la restante parte dei lavoratori disoccupati a causa della pandemia rimangono nel libro paga del loro datore di lavoro secondo le modalità previste dal TWSS¹⁴. Secondo le ipotesi di questo scenario, il gettito fiscale sarebbe inferiore rispetto a quello presentato nello scenario B, poiché il sussidio viene erogato in proporzione al salario netto medio e non tutti i dipendenti hanno diritto al pagamento di 350 o 410 euro¹⁵. Si verifica una diminuzione notevole delle spese aggiuntive per il welfare non soggetto a particolari condizioni di reddito (da 2,8 miliardi a 1,4 miliardi), che vanno a sommarsi alle spese per il TWSS pari a 1,2 miliardi. L'impatto netto sull'erario dello Scenario C è leggermente inferiore (-4,8 miliardi di

every 100,000 individuals that lose their job.

euro) rispetto a quello dello Scenario B (-4,9 miliardi di euro).

Nello Scenario D si ipotizza che i dipendenti ricevano dal datore di lavoro un'integrazione al loro stipendio ulteriore all'integrazione salariale fino all'importo massimo consentito; ciò risulta in un maggior gettito fiscale (il deficit passa da 1,2 miliardi di euro a 1,1 miliardi di euro) e in un leggero aumento delle spese per il welfare soggette a condizioni di reddito. Il costo netto per l'erario scende da -4,8 miliardi di euro a -4,5 miliardi di euro.

Le Appendici B e C mostrano i costi che dovranno essere sostenuti dal Ministero delle Finanze per i due scenari a basso e alto tasso di disoccupazione. Le cifre stimate aumentano parallelamente all'aumentare del tasso di disoccupazione: per esempio, come illustrato nello scenario D, l'impatto sulle finanze dello Stato di 400.000, 600.000 o 800.000 perdite di posti di lavoro corrisponde rispettivamente a 3,2 miliardi, 4,5 miliardi e 5,8 miliardi di euro. Grazie ai dati presentati dai tre scenari, è possibile stimare che un incremento del tasso di disoccupazione potrebbe ridurre il gettito fiscale diretto e aumentare le spese per il welfare, spendendo 800 miliardi circa a trimestre

per ogni 100.000 perdite di posti di lavoro.

⁶ Based on applying trends for the Live Register to February unemployment numbers, and assuming all individuals availing of the PUP (but not TWSS) are unemployed. This is consistent with the CSO's methods for calculating unemployment. If PUP recipients are not considered unemployed but rather, temporarily outside the labour force, this method may overstate the unemployment rate (Central Bank of Ireland, 2020).

⁷ They are also likely to be unevenly distributed across gender and age cohort but we do not account for this in these

initial simulations as limited data are currently available.

⁸ We update monetary variables to their 2019 levels using a range of indices (such as CPI, GDP growth etc). Such indices are not available for 2020 so, given the current levels of uncertainty, we assume no growth between 2019 and 2020.

⁹ We simulate the effect of job losses among employees and self-employed who report working at least nine months in the last year and who we assume qualify for contributory Jobseekers Benefit (no information is available in the EU-SILC data on the number of PRSI contributions in the relevant tax year). The weighted number of individuals who we simulate to lose their jobs in the medium scenario is 618,000, corresponding to 70-80 per cent in high risk sectors, 20-60 per cent in medium risk sectors and 5 per cent in low risk sectors (see also Table A.1 in Appendix A).

¹⁰ See Table A.1 in Appendix A for a summary of how job losses are distributed in each sector. Simulated job losses are random within these sectors so our results are associated with a degree of uncertainty. If, within sectors, job losses are actually more concentrated among lower income individuals, we will overstate the loss in direct tax revenues, especially income tax and USC.

⁶ Basandosi sull'applicazione dei trend per il Live Register al tasso di disoccupazione registrato a febbraio, e ipotizzando che tutti coloro che sono idonei all'ottenimento del PUP, ma non del TWSS, siano disoccupati. Ciò è coerente con i metodi di calcolo della disoccupazione adottati dal CSO. Se coloro che ricevono il PUP non sono da considerarsi disoccupati ma piuttosto temporaneamente fuori dalla forza lavoro, questo metodo potrebbe sovrastimare il tasso di disoccupazione (Central Bank of Ireland, 2020).

⁷ È inoltre altamente probabile che la distribuzione sia disomogenea anche tra sessi e età, ma non si terrà conto questi fattori nelle simulazioni iniziali, a causa della limitata disponibilità attuale di dati.

⁸ Le variabili monetarie vengono aggiornate ai livelli del 2019 utilizzando una serie di indici (come l'IPC, la crescita del PIL, ecc.). Tali indici non sono disponibili per il 2020 e quindi, data l'attuale incertezza, si ipotizza una crescita nulla tra il 2019 e il 2020.

⁹ Viene simulato l'effetto dei tagli all'occupazione sui lavoratori dipendenti e autonomi che abbiano lavorato per almeno nove mesi nell'ultimo anno e che si presume possano essere idonei per ottenere il sussidio di disoccupazione (nei dati Eu-Silc non sono disponibili informazioni sul numero di contributi PRSI per l'anno fiscale di riferimento). Il numero ponderato di lavoratori che si ipotizza perdano il lavoro nello scenario medio è di 618.000, pari al 70-80% nei settori ad alto rischio, al 20-60% nei settori a medio rischio e al 5% nei settori a basso rischio (si veda anche la Tabella A.1 nell'Appendice A).

¹⁰ Si veda la Tabella A.1 nell'Appendice A per un riepilogo della distribuzione dei tagli all'occupazione in ciascun settore. I tagli simulati sono casuali all'interno di questi settori, di conseguenza i risultati risultano incerti. Se i tagli all'interno dei settori dovessero essere effettivamente più concentrati tra i lavoratori a basso reddito, la perdita di gettito fiscale diretto, in particolare dell'imposta sul reddito e della

¹¹ The main policy instruments are set to be in place for 12 weeks. As the EUROMOD model works with monthly income, we approximate this to three months.

¹² Guidance from the Revenue Commissioners states that while employers will receive a subsidy of €410 per eligible employee in the transition period, they are required to ‘hold the excess of the subsidy payment received over the amount of subsidy actually to each employee’ and that ‘this excess amount will be taken into account by Revenue when paying future subsidy payments to employer or will be repaid directly to Revenue’.

See

<https://revenue.ie/en/corporate/communications/covid-19/temporary-covid-19-wage-subsidy-scheme.aspx>.

¹³ By 27 March, the day after the wage subsidy scheme commenced, there had been 323,000 applications for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment, excluding duplicates. See <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/728c73-update-on-payments-awarded-for-covid-19-pandemic-unemployment-payment/>.

¹⁴ Self-employed individuals are not eligible for the scheme while not all employees will qualify for the subsidy because they have earnings above the maximum eligible amount.

¹⁵ Our simulations suggest a large degree of bunching at the lower wage subsidy rate of €350 with many employees receiving less than this. This points to potentially adverse incentives for employees to stay on payroll rather than claiming the PUP in addition to other income supports (such as rent supplement).

USC, sarà sovrastimata.

¹¹ È previsto che i principali strumenti politici rimangano in vigore per 12 settimane. Poiché il modello EUROMOD lavora con redditi mensili, si approssima questo periodo a tre mesi.

¹² Le line guida dei Revenue Commissioners, agenzia del Governo Irlandese responsabile della tassazione, prevedono che, anche se i datori di lavori riceveranno un sussidio di 410 euro per ogni dipendente idoneo durante il periodo di transizione, sono tenuti a “trattenere l'eccedenza del pagamento del sussidio ricevuto rispetto all'importo del sussidio effettivamente erogato a ciascun dipendente” e che “questo importo in eccesso sarà preso in considerazione dai Revenue Commissioners al momento del pagamento dei futuri sussidi al datore di lavoro o sarà rimborsato direttamente dai Revenue Commissioners”. Cfr. <https://revenue.ie/en/corporate/communications/covid-19/temporary-covid-19-wage-subsidy-scheme.aspx>.

¹³ Fino al 27 marzo, il giorno successivo all'avvio del programma di integrazione salariale, erano state presentate 323.000 richieste per l'ottenimento del Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP), esclusi i duplicati.

¹⁴I lavoratori autonomi non sono idonei all'ottenimento del TWSS, e non tutti i dipendenti saranno idonei al ricevimento del sussidio poiché il loro reddito supera la soglia massima.

¹⁵Si ipotizza un generale posizionamento nella fascia di integrazione salariale più bassa, pari a 350 euro, con un alto numero di dipendenti che riceve una somma ulteriormente inferiore. Ciò porta a pensare che questi provvedimenti risultino potenzialmente sfavorevoli per i dipendenti che rimangono in busta paga, piuttosto che per quelli che fanno invece richiesta per l'ottenimento del PUP in aggiunta ad altri sostegni al reddito, come il sostentimento aggiuntivo per il pagamento dell'affitto (rent supplement).

APPENDIX

TABLE 1 – Direct Exchequer Costs, € million per quarter

	A	B	C	D
Change in market income	- 6,411	- 6,411	- 5,247	- 4,456
Change in personal income tax revenue	- 1,342	- 1,152	- 1,298	- 1,117
Change in employee SIC revenue	- 229	- 229	- 229	- 229
Change in self-employed SIC revenue	- 48	- 48	- 48	- 48
Change in employer SIC revenue	- 556	- 556	- 556	- 552
Change in means-tested welfare expenditure	70	80	119	60
Change in non means-tested welfare expenditure	1,850	2,839	1,360	1,359
Cost of temporary wage subsidy	0	0	1,173	1,173
Net Exchequer impact	- 4,095	- 4,904	- 4,784	- 4,538

Source: Own calculations using EUROMOD linked to 2017 EU-SILC data uprated to 2020 terms.

Notes: Calculations show the estimated quarterly cost of medium unemployment shock under four scenarios: A – no policy response; B – introduction of PUP and extension of fuel allowance; C – as B but half retained in employment through TWSS; D – as C but with additional payments by employers to maximum allowed under TWSS.

APPENDICE

TABELLA 1 – Costi Diretti dell’Erario, Milioni di euro per Trimestre

	A	B	C	D
Variazioni del reddito di mercato	- 6.411	- 6.411	- 5.247	- 4.456
Variazione del gettito dell’imposta sul reddito delle persone fisiche	- 1.342	- 1.152	- 1.298	- 1.117
Variazioni delle entrate SIC* derivanti dai contributi per la previdenza sociale versati dai lavoratori dipendenti	- 229	- 229	- 229	- 229
Variazioni delle entrate SIC* derivanti dai contributi per la previdenza sociale versati dai lavoratori autonomi	- 48	- 48	- 48	- 48
Variazioni delle entrate SIC* derivanti dai contributi per la previdenza sociale versati dai datori di lavoro	- 556	- 556	- 556	- 552
Variazioni delle spese per il welfare soggette a condizioni di reddito	70	80	119	60
Variazioni delle spese per il welfare non soggette a condizioni di reddito	1.850	2.839	1.360	1.359
Costo dell’integrazione salariale temporanea	0	0	1.173	1.173
Impatto netto sull’erario	- 4.095	- 4.904	- 4.784	- 4.538

* Social Insurance Contributions (SIC)

Fonte: Calcoli stimati da ESRI utilizzando il modello europeo di microsimulazione fiscale EUROMOD in relazione ai dati Eu-Silc del 2017 adeguati al 2020.

Note: I calcoli mostrano i costi stimati per trimestre dello shock medio sulla disoccupazione ipotizzato nei quattro diversi scenari: A – nessuna politica di risposta; B – introduzione del PUP ed estensione del sussidio per il carburante; C – la situazione presentata non varia rispetto a quella descritta nello scenario B, se non per il fatto che la metà dei lavoratori dipendenti non venga licenziata in questo scenario grazie alla messa in vigore del TWSS; D - la situazione presentata non varia rispetto a quella descritta nello scenario C, eccetto il pagamento di integrazioni aggiuntive da parte dei datori di lavoro fino all’importo massimo consentito dal TWSS.

2.3 A Case of Legal Translation: Translation of Some Passages Taken from the Health Act 1 of 2020

Health (Preservation and Protection and other Emergency Measures in the Public Interest) Act 2020

Number 1 of 2020

PART 2

AMENDMENTS TO SOCIAL WELFARE ACTS

Definition

3. In this Part, “Act of 2005” means the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005.

Amendment of section 21 of Act of 2005

4. Section 21 of the Act of 2005 is amended, in subsection (1)(e), by the substitution of “illness benefit granted to a person to whom section 40(7) applies, invalidity pension” for “invalidity pension”.

Amendment of section 40 of Act of 2005

5. Section 40 of the Act of 2005 is amended—

(a) in subsection (1), by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph

(b):

“(b) he or she satisfies the contribution conditions in section 41 or such conditions as may be prescribed in

Health Act 2020 sulla Conservazione e Protezione e Altre Misure di Emergenza nell'Interesse Pubblico

Numero 1 del 2020

PARTE SECONDA

MODIFICHE AI SOCIAL WELFARE ACTS¹

Definizione

3. In questa sezione, con “Act of 2005” si fa riferimento al Social Welfare Consolidation Act² del 2005.

Modifica dell'articolo 21 dell'Act of 2005

4. L'Health Act 1 del 2020 modifica il comma 1, lettera e) dell'articolo 21 dell'Act of 2005, sostituendo “indennità in caso di malattia concessa agli individui a cui si applica l'articolo 40, comma 7, pensione di invalidità” con “pensione di invalidità”.

Modifica dell'articolo 40 dell'Act of 2005

5. L'articolo 40 dell'Act of 2005 viene modificato—

(a) al comma 1, con la sostituzione del seguente paragrafo con il paragrafo (b):

“(b) coloro che soddisfino le condizioni di contribuzione previste dall'articolo 41

accordance with regulations under section 40A.",
and

(b) by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (6):

"(7) Subject to subsection (8), this subsection applies to a person who is incapable of work, or is deemed to be incapable of work, by virtue of—

(a) being certified in the prescribed manner by a registered medical practitioner as being a person—

(i) who is diagnosed with Covid-19, or
(ii) who is a probable source of infection of Covid-19,

(b) having been notified, in the prescribed manner, by a medical officer of health or such other person as may be prescribed, that he or she is a probable source of infection of Covid-19,

(c) being deemed, in accordance with regulations under section 40A, to be a probable source of infection of Covid-19, or

(d) being a person in respect of whom an order under section 38A(1) of the Health Act 1947 is in force.

(8) Notwithstanding subsection (7), the Minister may prescribe a category or categories of persons who, by virtue of the terms and conditions (expressed or implied) of their contract of

o le condizioni che siano prescritte in conformità con i regolamenti previsti dall'articolo 40A",

e

(b) con l'inserimento dei seguenti commi dopo il comma 6:

"(7) Fatto salvo il comma 8, il presente comma si applica agli individui inabili al lavoro, o ritenuti inabili al lavoro, in virtù del fatto che—

(a) un medico competente ha certificato, secondo le modalità previste, che si tratta di una persona—

(i) risultata positiva al Covid-19, o
(ii) che rappresenta una probabile fonte di trasmissione dell'infezione da Covid-19,

(b) sono stati notificati, secondo le modalità previste, da un ufficiale sanitario o da un'altra figura competente, di essere una probabile fonte di trasmissione dell'infezione da Covid-19,
(c) sono considerati, in conformità con i regolamenti di cui all'articolo 40A, una probabile fonte di trasmissione dell'infezione da Covid-19, oppure

(d) sono individui nei confronti dei quali è in vigore un ordine ai sensi dell'articolo 38, comma 1, dell'Health Act del 1947.

(8) A prescindere da quanto previsto al comma (7), il Ministro può prescrivere una o più categorie di persone che, in virtù dei termini e delle condizioni

employment, shall not be entitled to illness benefit in respect of absences from employment arising from their being a person to whom subsection (7) applies.

(9) Notwithstanding subsection (2), a person to whom subsection (7) applies shall be entitled to illness benefit on and from the first day of any period of incapacity, or deemed incapacity, for work.

(10) Notwithstanding anything in this Act, the Minister may, in respect of a person to whom subsection (7) applies, prescribe the minimum contribution conditions to be satisfied.

(11) Notwithstanding anything in this Act, in respect of a person to whom subsection (7) applies, the Minister may by regulations under section 40A vary the rate of illness benefit for such period as may be prescribed.

(12) In this section and section 40A, ‘Covid-19’ means a disease caused by infection with the virus SARS-CoV-2 and specified as an infectious disease in accordance with Regulation 6 of, and the Schedule to, the Infectious Diseases Regulations 1981 (S.I. No. 390 of 1981) or any variant of the disease so specified as an infectious disease in those Regulations.”.

(espresso o implicito) del loro contratto di lavoro, non hanno diritto alle indennità di malattia per le assenze dal lavoro derivanti dal fatto di essere un individuo a cui si applica il comma (7).

(9) A prescindere da quanto previsto al comma (2), un individuo a cui si applichi il comma (7) ha diritto all’indennità di malattia a partire dal primo giorno di ogni periodo di incapacità lavorativa o di presunta incapacità lavorativa.

(10) In deroga a quanto previsto dalla presente Legge, il Ministro può, in relazione agli individui a cui si applica il comma (7), prevedere che le condizioni contributive minime vengano soddisfatte.

(11) A prescindere da quanto previsto dalla presente Legge, in relazione agli individui a cui si applica il comma (7), il Ministro può, ai sensi dell’articolo 40A, variare l’aliquota dell’indennità di malattia per il periodo eventualmente prescritto.

(12) Nel presente articolo e nell’articolo 40A, con “Covid-19” si fa riferimento alla malattia da coronavirus causata dal virus SARS-CoV-2, classificata come patologia infettiva ai sensi del Regolamento 6, e dell’Allegato, dell’Infectious Diseases Regulations 1981 (S.I. No. 390 of 1981)³, o a qualsiasi

Regulations in respect of persons to whom section 40(7) applies

6. The Act of 2005 is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 40:

"40A.(1) The Minister may, following consultation with the Minister for Health, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, and having regard to the matters specified in subsection (2), make regulations for the purposes of giving full effect to the relevant provisions and such regulations may, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, provide for all or any of the following:

- (a) the matters referred to as prescribed by the relevant provisions;
- (b) the procedure by which, and manner in which, a person is certified to be a relevant person;
- (c) notwithstanding the generality of paragraph (b), the procedure by which, and manner in which, a person is deemed to be a probable source of infection of Covid-19;
- (d) the requirements in relation to which, and the manner in which, a relevant person shall notify the Minister of the circumstances of his or her incapacity, or deemed incapacity, for work;

variante della malattia considerata come patologia infettiva da tali Regolamenti".

Regolamenti relativi alle persone a cui si applica l'articolo 40, comma 7

6. L'Act of 2005 viene modificato con l'inserzione del seguente articolo dopo l'articolo 40:

"40A. (1) Il Ministro, previa consultazione con il Ministro della Sanità, con il consenso del Ministro dell'Economia e delle Finanze⁴, e in considerazione delle questioni di cui al comma (2), può emanare regolamenti al fine di dare piena attuazione alle disposizioni in materia e tali regolamenti possono, in particolare, ma senza pregiudicare la generalità di quanto sopra, prevedere tutto o parte di quanto segue:

- (a) le questioni a cui si fa riferimento come prescritto dalle disposizioni pertinenti;
- (b) la procedura e le modalità con cui una persona viene certificata come persona interessata;
- (c) a prescindere dalle prescrizioni generali del paragrafo (b), la procedura e le modalità con cui una persona è considerata una probabile fonte di trasmissione dell'infezione da Covid-19;
- (d) i requisiti e le modalità con cui la persona interessata deve notificare al

(e) additional conditions for entitlement of a relevant person to illness benefit;
(f) such additional, incidental, consequential or supplemental matters as the Minister considers necessary or expedient for the purposes of giving effect to the relevant provisions.

(2) When making regulations under this section, the Minister shall have regard to the following:

- (a) the nature and potential impact of Covid-19 on individuals, society and the State;
- (b) the capacity of the State to respond to the risk to public health posed by the spread of Covid-19;
- (c) the policies and objectives of the Government to protect the health and welfare of members of the public;
- (d) the need to ensure the most beneficial, effective and efficient use of resources;
- (e) the need to mitigate the economic effects of the spread of Covid-19;
- (f) in relation to regulations made for the purposes of section 40(7)(c), the impact of the requirement for certification on the availability of resources within the health services.

(3) In this section—
‘relevant person’ means a person to whom section 40(7) applies; ‘relevant

Ministro le circostanze della sua incapacità, o presunta incapacità, al lavoro;

(e) le condizioni aggiuntive per il diritto della persona interessata all'indennità di malattia;

(f) le questioni aggiuntive, accessorie, conseguenti o supplementari che il Ministro ritenga necessarie o opportune ai fini dell'attuazione delle disposizioni in questione.

(2) Nell'emanare i regolamenti ai sensi del presente comma, il Ministro deve tenere conto di quanto segue:

- (a) la natura e il potenziale impatto dell'infezione da nuovo coronavirus sugli individui, sulla società e sullo Stato;
- (b) la capacità di risposta dello Stato a fronte del rischio per la salute pubblica posto dalla diffusione dell'infezione da nuovo coronavirus;
- (c) le politiche e gli obiettivi del Governo per la protezione della salute e del benessere dei cittadini;
- (d) la necessità di garantire l'uso più vantaggioso, efficace ed efficiente delle risorse disponibili;
- (e) la necessità di mitigare gli effetti economici causati dalla diffusione dell'infezione da nuovo coronavirus;
- (f) in relazione ai regolamenti emanati ai fini dell'articolo 40, comma 7, lettera c),

provisions' means subsections (7) to (12) of section 40.”.

Amendment of section 62 of Act of 2005

7. Section 62 of the Act of 2005 is amended by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (4):
“(4) A person shall not, except as provided for by regulations made with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, be entitled to jobseeker’s benefit for the first 3 days of any period of interruption of employment.”.

Amendment of section 141 of Act of 2005

8. Section 141 of the Act of 2005 is amended in subsection (2) by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph (a):

“(a) A person shall not, except as provided for by regulations made with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, be entitled to jobseeker’s allowance for the first 3 days of unemployment in any continuous period of unemployment.”.

l’impatto dell’obbligo di certificazione sulla disponibilità di risorse all’interno dei servizi sanitari.

(3) In questo articolo— con “persona interessata” si fa riferimento a coloro ai quali si applica l’articolo 40, comma 7; con “disposizioni pertinenti” si intendono i commi da (7) a (12) dell’articolo 40.

Modifiche all’articolo 62 dell’Act of 2005

7. L’articolo 62 dell’Act of 2005 viene modificato con la sostituzione del seguente comma con il comma (4):

“(4) Una persona non avrà diritto all’indennità di disoccupazione per i primi tre giorni di qualsiasi periodo di interruzione del lavoro, salvo quanto previsto dai regolamenti adottati con il consenso del Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform”.

Modifiche all’articolo 141 dell’Act of 2005

8. Il comma 2 dell’articolo 141 dell’Act of 2005 viene modificato con la sostituzione del seguente paragrafo per il paragrafo (a):

“(a) Una persona non avrà diritto all’indennità di disoccupazione per i primi tre giorni di disoccupazione in un qualsiasi periodo continuo di disoccupazione, salvo quanto previsto

dai regolamenti adottati con il consenso del Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform”.

¹ Leggi relative alla previdenza sociale

² Legge consolidata sulla previdenza sociale

³ Regolamentazioni sulle malattie infettive del 1981

⁴ Il Ministro dell’Economia e delle Finanze svolge funzioni simili al Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

CHAPTER THREE

Analysing Translation Choices

The content of the third chapter mainly focuses on analysing certain extracts taken from the source texts and their respective translation into Italian, focusing on why certain translation choices were made and which procedures were adopted during the translation process.

3.1 Building the Corpora

In the building process of corpora for translation purposes specific criteria should be met, according to the type of source text the translator has to face and to the type of translation the translator has decided to produce (House 2009: 76-78). A corpus should be designed according to the type of source text, and to the LSP it uses:

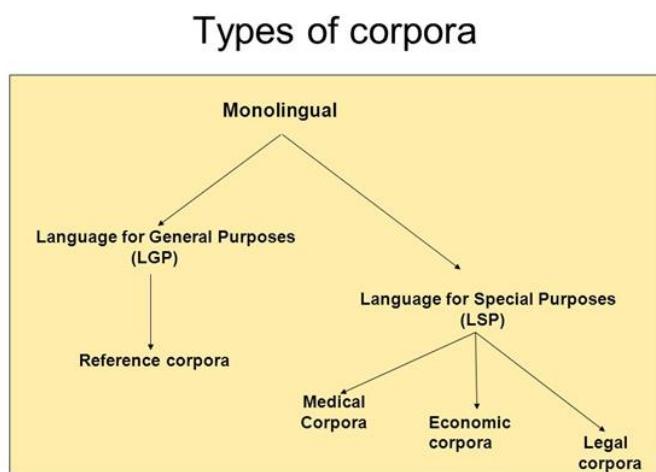


Figure 1: Types of Monolingual Corpora (Di Prisco 2018)

Since I decided to translate three specialised articles, with each one of them belonging to a different specialised area, I created three separate specialised monolingual corpora, all containing exclusively written to be read specialised articles, published around the same period as the source texts, and dealing with the same, or with a similar, topic from the same genre perspective. To translate the medical article I created a corpus containing medical articles originally written in Italian, dealing with the same topic faced by the source text, i.e., the effects of Covid-19 on the lungs and how specific imaging exams can help diagnose the disease and establish its severity. For the business article, which deals

with the effects of Covid-19 related unemployment on public expenditure in Ireland, I selected Italian articles dealing with Covid-19 effects on national economy, whereas to build the legal corpus I used Italian laws on Covid-19, for the source text I chose is the first Act on Covid-19 published by the Irish government.

3.2 Corpus Analysis

To analyse these corpora, I used the corpus analysis software AntConc, which was especially useful for analysing concordance, and investigating the collocation and the frequency of usage of specific words and expressions in a specialised context. It was also helpful for confirming whether certain expressions existed in the specialised target language. However, Kilgarriff and Grefenstette suggest that even the entire World Wide Web could be considered as a corpus, as long as authentic data is taken into consideration (Kenny 2001: 59). I was, indeed, able to find the answer to certain questions by using the Internet as a corpus, typing on the Google search bar certain expressions I was interested in finding out whether they were actually used in the specialised context I was considering; if said expressions appeared, multiple times, in different academic or reliable specialised sources, I would then use them in my translation too. An example is represented by the expression *lung windows*, which appeared in the Irish medical article. I tried to translate it literally as *finesstre polmonari*, but I could not find any correspondence in the medical corpus I had built, leading me to use a paper bilingual dictionary first and then multiple online dictionaries, without ever being able to reach a conclusion, for *finesstre polmonari* did not seem to exist as a medical expression. On the other hand, a medical expression which did seem to exist was *finestra aorto-polmonare*, so at first this was the translation I opted for, not being an expert of this field. However, after some more research, I realised that *finestra aorto-polmonare* actually refers to a rare congenital heart condition, whereas *lung windows* refer to a specific area of the chest analysed through imaging exams. My investigation led me to a website that publishes medical research on imaging exams, thanks to which I was able to conclude that the most suitable translation was *finestra polmonare*.

3.3 Justifying Translation Choices: Medical Translation

Imaging of Covid-19; an Irish Perspective

La prospettiva irlandese sull’imaging per la valutazione della gravità dell’infezione da COVID-19

The title of the medical article itself was quite challenging to translate. A literal translation did not represent the best solution: based on the articles included in the corpus, all of which featured a title that could be considered as a short summary of the content of the whole text, some information needed explicitation. It was the last item I translated, since I needed to have grasped in depth the meaning of the article, so to be able to use the title to explain more precisely what content the Italian reader was going to find. I added *per la valutazione della gravità dell’infezione* to clarify why imaging exams have been conducted on Covid-19 patients, whereas I used *dell’infezione da COVID-19* instead of just *Covid-19* because, according to the corpus, it is rare to find *Covid-19* on its own in specialised medical texts, which prefer longer and more formal forms such as *infezione da COVID-19* or *malattia da COVID-19*. The corpus also highlighted the preference for the uppercase form.

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
10	U-U_Andrea-_345-353_.txt	polmonite	da	COVID-19 p
11	07-D_Andrea-_345-353_.txt	polmonite	da	COVID-19 ti
12	MS2021-106.txt	lla malattia	da	COVID-19 è
13	01-DiPasquale-_317-320_.txt	i- infezione	da	COVID-19 ,
14	MS2021-106.txt	n infezione	da	COVID-19, i
15	07-D_Andrea-_345-353_.txt	acuta grave	da	COVID-19, t
16	Monitoraggio-post-Covid-19_-la-procedura-di-follow-up-per-i-pazienti-affetti-dal-virus.txt	lattia acuta	da	Covid-19, e
17	Monitoraggio-post-Covid-19_-la-procedura-di-follow-up-per-i-pazienti-affetti-dal-virus.txt	enti guariti	da	Covid-19, i
18	Monitoraggio-post-Covid-19_-la-procedura-di-follow-up-per-i-pazienti-affetti-dal-virus.txt	che causata	da	Covid-19, q
19	Infezione_da_nuovo_Coronavirus.txt	itivite virale	da	COVID-19 P
20	Infezione_da_nuovo_Coronavirus.txt	itivite virale	da	COVID-19 P
21	Epidemiologia-dell_emergenza-da-COVID-19_-cinque-domande-e-altrettante-risposte-Medici-Oggi.txt	à Epidemi	da	Covid-19 La
22	Covid19_-cosa-rivelano-Tac-e-radiografia-sull'infezione_-News_-Policlinico-di-Milano.txt	abin colpiti	da	Covid-19 qt
23	07-D_Andrea-_345-353_.txt	ll'infezione	da	COVID-19 r
24	Infezione_da_nuovo_Coronavirus.txt	a derivante	da	COVID-19 -
25	Infezione_da_nuovo_Coronavirus.txt	xne affette	da	COVID-19, i
26	07-D_Andrea-_345-353_.txt	polmonite	da	COVID-19, l
27	07-D_Andrea-_345-353_.txt	polmonite	da	COVID-19, (
28	Epidemiologia-dell_emergenza-da-COVID-19_-cinque-domande-e-altrettante-risposte-Medici-Oggi.txt	'emergenza	da	COVID-19, c
29	Infezione_da_nuovo_Coronavirus.txt	la infezione	da	COVID-19, t

Figure 2: Corpus collocate results for the entry “covid” highlighted that words such as “polmonite”, “infezione” or “malattia” usually precede the word “Covid-19” in Italian specialised medical articles

Combining explication with Taylor's Reordering strategy, I shifted *La prospettiva irlandese* towards the left of the sentence, employing a process called "dislocazione a sinistra", used to emphasise the part of interest (Salvi et al. 1992: 182), and presenting the Irish experience on certain findings is indeed the focus of the whole article. Furthermore, keeping the constituents separated by a semicolon felt too colloquial and therefore not suitable for the formality of Italian medical articles. Instead of translating *an Irish Perspective* as *una prospettiva irlandese*, I decided to translate the indefinite article *an* with the definite article *la*, because, in addition to merely sounding better, the article does not introduce one of the many perspectives, but the experience on the data that Irish health institutions have gathered and studied.

Covid-19 infection predominantly affects the respiratory tract. While the diagnosis is often made by a combination of clinical and positive findings on swab testing, imaging with Chest X-ray and CT are essential in establishing the severity of the disease and monitoring response.

Nonostante la diagnosi di COVID-19, infezione che colpisce prevalentemente l'apparato respiratorio, venga confermata attraverso un tampone rino-faringeo, la gravità della malattia può venire stabilita solo attraverso una radiografia toracica o da una TAC, grazie alle quali è poi possibile stabilire la conseguente procedura di monitoraggio del paziente.

As suggested by Scarpa (2008), English specialised texts tend to be less formal than Italian ones, a specific characteristic which is also shown by the syntax of the text, built through a series of short and simple juxtaposed sentences. Italian texts, on the other hand, prefer more complex and long hypotactic constructions, explicitly linked to one another through linking words and connectives (2008: 173). Based on this difference, which leads Italian readers to have different expectations, I reformulated the content fusing the two sentences into a longer one, through the technique Scarpa (2008) refers to as transposition, switching from a paratactic to a hypotactic structure. To improve readability, I adopted again another form of transposition, called Reordering by Taylor and Malone (1998), and shifted the first sentence towards the right as a brief explanation of what Covid-19 mainly affects. This shift allowed the sentence to sound less mechanical than it would have done if the same order had been respected. However, the shift also implied that the word *Covid-*

19 would not be introduced first, which meant that it had to be explicated that *the diagnosis* refers to the diagnosis of Covid-19, which is why I translated it as *Nonostante la diagnosi di COVID-19*. The expression *a combination of clinical and positive findings on swab testing* underwent a process of modulation which substituted the result, meaning the clinical and positive findings, with *tampone rino-faringeo*, the tool used to obtain that result. The order of *imaging with Chest X-ray and CT are essential in establishing the severity of the disease and monitoring response* was completely altered, resulting in *la gravità della malattia può venire stabilita solo attraverso una radiografia toracica o da una TAC, grazie alle quali è poi possibile stabilire la conseguente procedura di monitoraggio del paziente*, with *the severity of the disease* being positioned at the beginning of the clause as the subject of a passive construction, instead of as the direct object of an active structure, so to focus the attention on this particular item of the sentence which represents the first element imaging exams can analyse. As a consequence of this transposition process, the active form *are essential in establishing* was transformed into the passive construction *può venire stabilita solo attraverso*, with the addition of *solo* to compensate for the use of the verb *potere*, which indicates possibility and not essentiality, and therefore convey the same sense of necessity that was conveyed by the source text. *Grazie alle quali è poi possibile stabilire* was added as an anaphoric reference to explain what a *radiografia toracica* and a *TAC* exam can establish, to improve clarity and cohesion. Lastly, the expression *monitoring response* went through a process of explicitation, which resulted in a translation characterised by a higher degree of directness and formality.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is responsible for Covid-19; recently given pandemic status by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on 11/03/2020, with world-over cases rapidly rising.

L'11 marzo 2020 l'Organizzazione Mondiale della Sanità (OMS) ha dichiarato che l'infezione da nuovo coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2), responsabile della patologia nota come COVID-19, era da considerarsi una pandemia, visto il rapido incremento di casi su scala mondiale.

The English sentence sounds quite mechanical and the fractured structure through which the content is presented is not enough formal and therefore not suitable for the target

context, which is the reason why the clauses had to be reordered into a more cohesive sentence. Firstly, in a specialised Italian text it is rare to find the date expressed in figures, so the date is expressed in letters and figures at the beginning of the sentence, for it sounds more idiomatic to state the date at the beginning rather than at the end. The Italian language does not allow the literal translation of this passive construction, which was thus overturned into the active form, with *l'Organizzazione Mondiale della Sanità*, in the subject position. *L'Organizzazione Mondiale della Sanità (OMS)* represents a case of denotative equivalence, for even if the name and the acronym of the organisation is different in the two languages, they both refer to the same thing in the real world. During the transposition process from passive to active, it was necessary to adjust the verbs to the new context: the literal translation *ha recentemente dato lo status di pandemia* would have been unacceptable, because it does not sound appropriate for the target readers' expectations, justifying the choice of *ha dichiarato che l'infezione da nuovo coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 [...] era da considerarsi una pandemia*. This transformation represents an example of diffusion: the source text expression is expanded without the addition of extra information and presented in the target text with a higher degree of elaboration (Taylor 1998: 56-57). This choice was also determined by the need of elevating the level of formality through lexicon and terminology, since the Italian language for specialised disciplines tends to be more formal and detached, with a preference for complex hypotactic constructions. Another transposition process was used with reference to *world-over cases*, with the compound *world-over*, made up of a noun + preposition, used in adjective position transformed into the expression preposition + noun + adjective *su scala mondiale*, for compound adjectives do not exist in Italian; it could also have been translated as *in tutto il mondo*, but as Scarpa suggests, the translator should opt for those expressions which belong to a higher register, so to raise the level of formality of the text (Scarpa 2008: 195).

3.4 Justifying Translation Choices: Business Translation

As regards the business translation, the first challenge to face was the translation of the word *Exchequer*, mainly because I had never come into contact with it before, so I did not know what it was. The first thing to be done was indeed understanding what this word meant, for which I used both online dictionaries and a paper dictionary. The translation

both of these two resources provided was either *erario* or *Ministero delle Finanze*, which even if related, in Italian mean two different things: *erario* refers to public finances, *Ministero delle Finanze*, on the other hand, is the name of the institution that deals and manages the public finances. This therefore represents a case of what Taylor (1998) refers to as Divergence, meaning those situations in which a single word has multiple translations, so the translator must choose the most suitable term between a range of alternatives depending on the context; that is why it was sometimes translated as *Finanze dello Stato*, e.g. *Simulating the Effect of Covid-19 on Income Distribution and the Exchequer / Simulazione degli Effetti del Covid-19 sulla Distribuzione del Reddito e sulle Finanze dello Stato*, whereas some other times as *Ministero delle Finanze*, e.g. *Table 1 shows the estimated Exchequer cost [...] / Nella Tabella 1 vengono mostrate le spese pubbliche stimate [...] che dovranno essere sostenute dal Ministero delle Finanze*. The translation of this short passage allows me to mention another typical alteration English source texts undergo when translated into Italian, most times because of an unconscious choice made by the translator (Scarpa 2008: 164): in the English sentence, introduced by the subject (*Table 1*) followed by a verb in the active voice (*shows*) and by the direct object (*the estimated Exchequer cost*), the theme is the subject itself; the Italian language, on the other hand, prefers the circumstantial complement to be the theme of the sentence (Scarpa 2008: 164), in this case *Nella Tabella 1*, which determines the organisation of the elements to shift. As a consequence, the subject-verb order is inverted to focus the attention on *le spese pubbliche stimate*, which is the element around which the whole sentence revolves. The emphasis is put on this item through the means of the passive voice too. According to Scarpa, translations into Italian tend to expand the number of items of the sentence (2008: 152), to obtain a more elaborate and more complex structure: *the estimated Exchequer cost* was indeed translated as *le spese pubbliche stimate che dovranno essere sostenute dal Ministero delle Finanze*, with the transformation of a simple sentence into a hypotactic sentence made up of a main clause and a relative clause.

we also consider

verranno presi in considerazione

We assume that

Si ipotizza che

To obtain a more formal translation, compliant with the target reader's expectations, depersonalisation through impersonal constructions or through the passive voice is a key procedure (Scarpa 2008: 179). The more direct clause *we also consider*, featuring the personal pronoun *we*, was depersonalised by using the passive voice of the verbal expression “prendere in considerazione”, leaving out all traces of subjectivity. A similar situation can be observed with reference to the second example *We assume that / Si ipotizza che*, in which depersonalisation was achieved by using the impersonal form *si*.

PUP

PUP (Pandemic Unemployment Payment – Indennità Covid-19), un'indennità di sostegno emessa dal governo in favore dei lavoratori che abbiano perso il loro impiego a causa dell'emergenza sanitaria

For an audience not familiar with what measures or policies were adopted in response to the Covid-19 emergency in Ireland, it was necessary to explain what the PUP is, so to allow the target reader to have the same knowledge of the source reader. In parenthesis, the expression *Indennità Covid-19* is mentioned, and represents an example of adaptation: when a concept mentioned in the ST, does not have a correspondent in the target language and culture, the translator has to find an equivalent situation to refer to (Vinay et al. 1977: 90-91). In this case, the “Indennità Covid-19” can be considered the equivalent measure taken by the Italian Government to help labourers affected by the pandemic, and therefore represents a much more familiar context for the target reader, who has probably heard of it before. However, the “Pandemic Unemployment Payment” and the “Indennità Covid-19”, even if comparable and similar, do not work in the exact same way, the main difference being that in Ireland, in order to be eligible, an employee had to have lost the job, in Italy, on the other hand, one could obtain this allowance even if they still had their job, which makes it impossible for them to be considered equal. To solve this issue, a

brief explanation of what the PUP is and how it works was added, to present useful information the target reader can use to understand better what the text is referring to.

Change in employee SIC revenue

Variazioni delle entrate SIC* derivanti dai contributi per la previdenza sociale versati dai lavoratori dipendenti

The first challenge concerning this short passage was understating what the acronym SIC referred to. The most common result I came across during the research identifies SIC as “Standard Industrial Classification”, a system for classifying industries by a four-digit code. At first, I thought this could make sense, if SIC revenue referred to the government revenue made from taxes paid by employees working in those industries that belong to this classification. However, it did not seem to be the correct interpretation. After a lot of research, I finally found a webpage within the European Commission website dealing with EUROMOD, which had been mentioned in the article, and could thus be related to this SIC. The information contained in the webpage stated that EUROMOD, the EU tax-benefit model that modeled the direct tax and benefit system in Ireland for 2020 (Beirne et al. 2020: 4-5), allows one to simulate non-complex reforms on Personal Income Taxes (PIT) and Social Insurance Contributions (SIC) of the European Union Member States (EUROMOD). Thanks to this, I was able to conclude that SIC did not stand for “Standard Industrial Classification”, but for “Social Insurance Contributions” instead. Though the means of an asterisk, I therefore explained what the acronym stands for in a footnote below Table 1. However, an Italian reader might not know what “Social Insurance Contributions” are. The expression *employee SIC revenue* was therefore translated, undergoing a further process of explicitation, as *entrate SIC* derivanti dai contributi per la previdenza sociale versati dai lavoratori dipendenti*. This translation is also justified by the non-existence of premodifiers in the Italian language, which determines their re-elaboration into a different structure, in this case a hypotactic structure composed of two non-finite relative clauses respectively introduced by a present and past participle, explaining where these *entrate* come from.

3.5 Justifying Translation Choices: Legal Translation

The approach employed with regard to the legal act translation was mainly literal, with the exception of those few changes made to reflect the fixed expressions generally employed by the Italian legal language. One example could be the translation of *this subsection*, which literally would have been *questo comma*, but was instead translated more idiomatically as *il presente comma*, similar to *Notwithstanding anything in this Act*, translated as *A prescindere da quanto previsto dalla presente Legge*. This extract also represents an example of Diffusion, highly typical when translating from English into Italian. The verb *prevedere* has been added because in the Italian legal language a legal act usually “prevede” certain measures; “Il Decreto prevede”, “La Legge prevede” etc. are, indeed, very common legal expressions.

“Act of 2005” means the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005

con “Act of 2005” si fa riferimento al Social Welfare Consolidation Act² del 2005

After consulting the corpus, I was able to conclude that the structure subject + verb, with the subject being the name of a law, is not commonly found in Italian legal texts, because too colloquial and direct, which motivates the choice of using the impersonal *si* construction, a more formal and detached alternative. This extract represents an emblematic example of the difference between the English and the Italian language when dealing with definitions: English establishes the element which is to be defined at the beginning of the sentence (X is...), whereas in Italian the preferred structure is “Con X ci si riferisce a...” (Scarpa 2008: 165).

he or she satisfies the contribution conditions in section 41

coloro che soddisfino le condizioni di contribuzione previste dall’articolo 41

Instead of translating the third person singular subject pronouns *he* and *she* as “colui” and “colei”, the gender-neutral third person plural pronoun *coloro* was employed as a more detached and neutral form, through what could be identified as an optional Condensation process, even if not common when translating into Italian, a language with a tendency towards Diffusion. The Italian legal language is extremely impersonal and objective, even more than both medical and business language, meaning that the translator has to adapt the directness and tendency towards informality of English texts, even if highly

specialised such as in the case of a legal act, to the target language standards. For this same reason, *in section 41* was translated as *previste dall'articolo 41*, with the preposition *in* replaced with the past participle + preposition *previste da*. The translation of a preposition with a past participle + preposition is typical when transferring material from English into Italian (Scarpa 2008: 167).

being certified in the prescribed manner by a registered medical practitioner as being a person— (i) who is diagnosed with Covid-19 [...]

un medico competente ha certificato, secondo le modalità previste, che si tratta di una persona— (i) risultata positiva al Covid-19 [...]

This passage represents an example of relocation towards the left, generally motivated by the need of mentioning peripheral information forthwith, so that it can be later taken for granted (Scarpa 2008: 164). The Italian language tends to place new information at the end of the sentence and less important elements at the beginning, whereas the English language behaves in the complete opposite way (Scarpa 2008: 164-165). In this case, the agent *by a registered medical practitioner* was given the position of the subject in the Italian translation and appears at the beginning of the sentence, with the passive construction necessarily turned into an active one. *As being a person*, does not have a proper literal translation, so it has been converted into the object clause *che si tratta di una persona*, separated from the verb by *secondo le modalità previste*, which was used as an incise introducing a pause with the aim of giving rhythm to the sentence, which would have otherwise been a continuum and would have been difficult to pronounce. Lastly, the relative clause *who is diagnosed with Covid-19*, underwent a modulation process that transformed a dynamic expression into a stative one, figuring in the form of an implicit relative clause introduced by a past participle. The reason behind this translation choice is motivated by the frequency of use of the expression “risultare positivi al Covid-19” rather than of expressions such as “essere diagnosticati con Covid-19”, and therefore represents the most suitable option to achieve a more idiomatic result.

3.6 Final observations

The general translation approach adopted for this project aimed at conveying the content of the source text as faithfully as possible, making the necessary adjustments to create a

text that would read like a text originally written in Italian and not like a translation. One of the characteristics of the translation process from English into Italian which can be noticed when comparing the source texts to their respective target texts is the need to adapt the less formal and direct way of communication of English texts to the target readers' standards, which include a higher register and a more sophisticated and detached language. Conveying the message by choosing the most suitable expressions so to create a translation compliant with the target readers' expectations was indeed the most challenging aspect of this translation task. As to be expected, the translations into Italian of the medical and business article, and of the legal act too, even if not as significantly as the other two texts, feature a substantially higher number of words, for the majority of the sentences which make up the texts underwent more complex oblique translation processes that increased the number of elements. This reflects the Italian language tendency to express the message in a more elaborate way, generally employing a higher number of items. One of the most frequently employed translation strategies was undoubtedly explication. The source texts taken into consideration for the task were all written by Irish experts to be read by an Irish audience; this meant that a great deal of information on what certain concepts meant or on background knowledge, essential for understanding the message, was left implicit, for it was assumed the readers would be already familiar with it. However, there is no guarantee that the target reader, whom the translations are aimed at, is acquainted with the Irish context dealt with in the texts. Explication was therefore necessary to explain what target readers might not know, allowing them to achieve the same level of knowledge of a source reader.

CONCLUSION

The aim of this dissertation was to present a translation proposal of three different specialised documents from English into Italian, one for each of the three specialised translation areas investigated in this project, putting into practice the theoretical knowledge of strategies, techniques, and processes that are usually employed to produce a target text compliant with the target readers' expectations.

The three source texts selected for this translation project are a medical article, a business paper and a legal act, all written by Irish experts and published for an Irish audience, with reference to the Irish context. The three documents all deal with the same topic, Covid-19, from three different genre perspectives. I chose this topic to be the common denominator that linked and gave cohesion to these three areas of specialised translation for translators need to be prepared to face translation tasks dealing with current topics and events. Since Covid-19 has been one of the most widely debated topics in the last two years, I considered it to be an ideal linking topic.

The first chapter is entirely dedicated to the presentation and explanation of those techniques and strategies that are generally adopted when translating from English into Italian and that were used, intentionally or unconsciously, to produce the translation of the three source texts. The second chapter presents the translations themselves, whereas the third one reflects upon the translation choices that were made during the transfer from English into Italian, justifying why they were made, and which processes were adopted to obtain those results.

What I can conclude after carrying out this project in its entirety is that specialised corpora are essential for producing a target text that features correctly the LSP actually used by expert speakers when dealing with specialised topics or specific disciplines and domains, especially if the translator in charge is unexperienced and not familiar with the terminology and the expressions that characterise that LSP. Moreover, it is possible to confirm that Explication is one of the most important and one of the most commonly used strategies when transferring material from one language to another language, from one culture to another culture, for a translator cannot assume that the target reader's background knowledge equals that of the source reader, especially when it comes to

information that concerns specific cultural elements, whose knowledge and awareness is most likely restricted to the source culture.

SUMMARY IN ITALIAN

Sin dai tempi più antichi, la traduzione permette lo scambio interculturale di idee, saperi e conoscenze. In una società sempre più interconnessa e globalizzata, il cui funzionamento è fondato sulla comunicazione interlinguistica ed internazionale, la traduzione diventa, ma in realtà rimane, vitale, in quanto in grado di trasferire un messaggio da una lingua ad un'altra, da una cultura ad un'altra, permettendo così lo scambio reciproco di informazioni.

Il focus principale di questo elaborato finale è la presentazione di una proposta di traduzione dalla lingua inglese verso la lingua italiana di tre articoli specializzati di origine irlandese che trattano lo stesso macro-tema, il Covid-19 con riferimento al contesto irlandese, da tre prospettive diverse. Il primo documento è infatti un articolo medico, pubblicato sulla rivista medica irlandese *Irish Medical Journal*, che basandosi sui dati raccolti dalle istituzioni sanitarie irlandesi analizza gli effetti della malattia a livello polmonare ed illustra come determinati esami di imaging, una tipologia di esame di diagnostica per immagini, come la radiografia toracica o la TAC, possano aiutare a diagnosticare la positività alla malattia e a stabilirne poi anche la gravità. Il secondo articolo selezionato per questo progetto di traduzione è un paper economico pubblicato dall’Economic & Social Research Institute, che ipotizza e commenta diversi scenari che analizzano l’impatto della disoccupazione causata dalla pandemia di Covid-19 sulla spesa pubblica dell’Irlanda. Il terzo ed ultimo testo di partenza che viene affrontato è il primo atto legale in materia Covid-19 pubblicato dal Governo irlandese, delineante le prime misure di sicurezza imposte sul territorio della Repubblica d’Irlanda per il contenimento dell’epidemia. Questa tesi si concentra dunque particolarmente sulla traduzione specializzata in ambito medico, economico e legale, presentandone un caso per ciascuna area considerata. Per la produzione dei tre testi d’arrivo sono stati utilizzati dizionari online e cartacei, in aggiunta a tre corpus, uno medico, uno economico e uno legale, creati appositamente per la realizzazione di questo progetto. Un corpus è un insieme di testi, al giorno d’oggi in formato elettronico, che attraverso appositi software possono essere analizzati, specialmente a livello linguistico. I risultati di questa analisi, nel caso di un progetto di traduzione, possono essere utilizzati per la stesura di un testo di arrivo conforme alle norme e abitudini linguistiche della target audience. Per la realizzazione di

questo specifico progetto di traduzione, i tre corpus sono stati elaborati tenendo conto delle differenze di genere dei tre testi di partenza e delle tematiche affrontante da ogni documento, e comprendono solo testi originariamente prodotti in lingua italiana.

L'elaborato si divide in tre capitoli. Il primo capitolo introduce brevemente il significato di traduzione, parola che deriva dal verbo latino *traducere*, risultato della fusione di *trans*, “oltre”, e *ducere*, “portare”, letteralmente “portare oltre”, “trasportare”, “trasferire” (Treccani), considerata come quel processo mentale che permette il trasferimento di un determinato messaggio da una data lingua di partenza verso la lingua di arrivo (Osman 2017). La traduzione specializzata viene invece definita come quel ramo della traduzione che si occupa del trasferimento di un testo di partenza redatto in una delle lingue speciali (LSP - Language for Specific Purposes in inglese), permettendo dunque la comunicazione specializzata di informazioni tecnico-scientifiche (Scarpa 2008: 67). Si distingue dalla traduzione letteraria per interessarsi a discipline specialistiche come la medicina, le scienze, il commercio, il diritto, e tutti quegli ambiti specializzati che facciano uso di un determinato linguaggio tecnico (Gotti et al. 2006: 9). Il primo capitolo presenta poi due delle questioni più controverse protagoniste del dibattito sulla traduzione sin dai tempi più antichi: i concetti di *faithfulness* e di *equivalence*. Con *faithfulness* si intende quanto fedele al testo originale il traduttore dovrebbe rimanere nel processo di produzione della traduzione. Alcuni credono che l'approccio migliore sia la traduzione letterale, ovvero parola per parola, sintagma per sintagma, o frase per frase, altri invece che il traduttore dovrebbe basarsi sul significato, sul senso del messaggio, invece di rimanere fedele a come il messaggio viene espresso linguisticamente. Più recentemente però, i teorici della traduzione affermano che l'obiettivo del traduttore dovrebbe essere non tanto rimanere fedele al testo di partenza, quanto più produrre un testo che possa essere considerato come una versione equivalente del testo originale; equivalente in quanto i due testi possiedono aspetti in comune, come comunicare un messaggio simile e avere la stessa funzione (House 2009: 29, 42). Il concetto stesso di *equivalence* non è univoco, ma ammette diversi significati di equivalenza in base al testo affrontato e alle sue caratteristiche, ma anche in base allo scopo del traduttore stesso che sceglie a quali aspetti dare priorità. Nel primo capitolo sarà inoltre possibile ritrovare alcune delle tecniche e strategie di traduzione più rilevanti, con particolare attenzione al passaggio dalla lingua inglese a quella italiana. Tra quelle che sono state utilizzate con maggiore frequenza per la produzione della traduzione

all'interno di questo specifico contesto possiamo citare la strategia che Taylor chiama Reordering, strategia che interessa la sintassi del testo e che prevede l'inversione dell'ordine originale delle parole, dei sintagmi o delle frasi (Taylor 1998: 61). Un altro processo estremamente rilevante è l'esplicitazione di tutte quelle informazioni lasciate implicite nel testo di partenza, in quanto date per scontate dagli autori che, essendo familiari con il contesto irlandese a cui si fa riferimento e rivolgendosi ad un pubblico familiare con questo stesso contesto, non hanno sentito il bisogno di spiegare con più precisione determinati concetti, che un lettore italiano invece, molto probabilmente, non conosce, ma che sono tuttavia fondamentali per la corretta comprensione del contenuto. Buona parte degli ulteriori processi traduttivi affrontati nel capitolo uno, come l'eliminazione delle ripetizioni attraverso l'impiego di sinonimi o anafore, l'aggiunta di connettori per la trasformazione di frasi semplici giustapposte in frasi ipotattiche più complesse, o la spersonalizzazione attraverso le strutture impersonali o attraverso la voce passiva, vengono utilizzati con lo scopo di innalzare il registro e il livello di formalità del testo di partenza in inglese. I testi in lingua inglese infatti tendono generalmente all'informalità, nonostante trattino discipline o argomenti specialistici; al contrario invece, un testo redatto in lingua italiana impiega un linguaggio molto più sostenuto, formale, risultando quindi molto più distaccato.

Il secondo capitolo presenta la traduzione in italiano dei tre testi di partenza. Il testo in lingua originale sarà disposto nella colonna di sinistra con testo a fronte in italiano nella colonna di destra. Il terzo ed ultimo capitolo si concentra invece sull'analisi di alcune scelte traduttive, spiegando quali processi, tecniche e strategie, sono stati impiegati per ovviare a determinati problemi e raggiungere una soluzione che potesse soddisfare le aspettative del lettore target italiano.

Il motivo per il quale ho scelto di affrontare un progetto di traduzione che mettesse al centro la traduzione specializzata è la consapevolezza che il mercato della traduzione sia ormai saturo di traduttori che si concentrano sulla traduzione letteraria, la cui domanda è peraltro considerevolmente molto più bassa rispetto a quella per servizi di traduzione specializzata: solo l'1% dei documenti tradotti, a livello mondiale, rappresenta infatti testi di tipo letterario, in confronto all'80% di testi considerati invece specializzati o tecnici (Scarpa 2008: 67). Volendo dare alla mia tesi uno scopo che andasse oltre la mera

esposizione di un argomento al quale fossi interessata, ed essendo consapevole che inseguire una carriera come traduttrice letteraria sarebbe incredibilmente difficile, se non forse addirittura impossibile, sapevo che affrontare la traduzione specializzata mi avrebbe dato non solo la preziosa opportunità di esplorare un ambito della traduzione a me ancora poco conosciuto, ma soprattutto di capire se tale ambito potesse rappresentare il percorso che voglio intraprendere in futuro.

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