ACKNOWLEDGING AND ESTABLISHING THE HIERARCHY OF EXPERTISE IN TRANSLATOR-REVISER SCENARIOS AS AN AID TO THE PROCESS OF REVISING TRANSLATIONS

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ABSTRACT

There is little in the way of a consistent approach to the organisation of translation revision in the world of commercial translation. After a general review of what translation revision normally entails, this dissertation examines how focusing on the translator's and reviser's expertise provides a basis for a set of scenarios that can be used as a framework for organising a translation cum translation revision project. The study then examines some areas of revision that fail a given project and proposes a point of departure to remedy these, based on two studies carried out to examine consensus of opinion by professional linguists. The value of domain-focused expertise is then examined in two examples of revision practice that provide a valuable contribution to enhancing translation quality. Finally, the results of the studies and the conclusions drawn from the examples are used to make some recommendations for improving the current situation regarding the revision of translation.

CONTENTS

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

In the translation business world, by which I mean the world of paid translations for whatever type of end user, including major institutions such as the European Union, the Council of Europe, the UN, etc., there seems to be no consistent approach to checking other people's translations or having other people's translations checked. This often results in problems: confusion over the reviser's brief, conflicting terminology, and conflicts relating to linguistic choices, be they syntactical, lexical, genre- or register-related, etc. But there are other parameters to be considered, such as whether or not the reviser should be responsible for formatting, the elimination of typos, matters of style, socio-economic considerations, etc. This study views in particular the dynamics of the relationship between reviser and translator with the focus on the hierarchy of expertise: in other words, which of the two actors should function as translator and which reviser in consideration of their expertise, be it linguistic or domain-related. This is connected with the scope of a reviser's brief, or, more usually, the lack of one (see Künzli, 2005 p.40), which often makes it hard to identify how comprehensive his/her task should be, more particularly in the areas of subject expertise and terminology.

This essay first examines three areas of controversy with respect to the revision of translation. The first is the terminology that various actors in the sector give to the process, which is often overlapping in nature and usually poorly defined. The second issue is the function of revision and the problems that it often entails. The third is what revision often consists of and what it, perhaps, ought to consist of.

Chapter 4 raises the matter of expertise in translation, and makes a distinction between linguistic expertise and subject-matter (domain) expertise. A set of six translation-revision scenarios is proposed, based on a predetermined hierarchy of expertise, which could form the framework of a strategy for commissioning translation cum translation revision projects. The discussion then turns to three 'classic' areas of revision failure, with the focus of the discussion very much on one of them: the notion of 'unnecessary' revision (hyper-revision).

There follows an account of two studies carried out to test how expertise can be used as a tool for evaluating whether instances of revision are 'necessary', or otherwise. The focus here is very much on linguistic expertise purely and simply, but the next section (Chapter 8) illustrates how domain expertise can be exploited to produce good translated texts. The findings of the studies and the conclusions reached from the domain examples, it is suggested, can be mapped on to the various scenarios identified earlier, and in this way a more coherent approach to the translation revision process, including the actual hiring of the 'right' person for the task of revising the translation in question, is realised.

Chapter 2 TERMS

Not only is the approach to checking translations generally random, or at least inconsistent, but the terms that describe the checking process vary between translation companies, end users of translations and translators themselves.

Some use the term proofreading for this process. The ProZ on-line translators' forum ran a poll in May 2006 in which translators were asked the following question: "How do you proofread your translations?" 348 translators responded. On the other hand, Burrough-Boenisch (2002, pp. 46-47) makes the assertion that proofreading is "the word UK-based translators use to describe the amending of their draft translations" (by another party understood), whilst revising is what translators do in connection with their own work (i.e. self-revision). According to Young (2006), 'proofreading' suggests a focus, not so much on the elimination of errors in the original translation, but on such areas as layout, punctuation, typos, font, etc., a stage that comes after revision. The fact that typos are mentioned as being part of the proof-reader's remit would already suggest, however, that there is some degree of overlap in the description of tasks in respect of the reviser proper (who, one would assume, would address the problems of typos as a matter of course) and the proof-reader.

The terms 'editing' and even 'copy-editing' are also employed in the translation industry to refer to aspects of the checking process. Young (2006) dismisses 'editing' as a precise description of the translation checker's task, as it tends to connote more with pre-publication modifying (condensation, rearranging, altering of content, etc.). Mossop (pp.11-12) discusses 'copyediting' and 'stylistic editing', both of which feature areas of

overlap with the job of the reviser (grammar, spelling, 'improvement'). But there are additional considerations which Mossop touches on here, such as adherence to in-house 'rules', the layout of headings and sub-headings, and issues of readability which may fall outside the scope of the reviser's brief, imagined or otherwise.

The term 'review' seems to be used as a general word in the translation industry to cover all or any tasks of revision, proofreading, etc. On the other hand, Mossop (2001, p. 169) suggests that this is the task of a subject-matter specialist (and not necessarily a linguist), who will check a translation for conceptual errors, terminology, etc. Nevertheless, the use of an outsider specialist in the production of translations is probably a rare luxury, and the choice of the correct subject-matter language will usually be the responsibility of either the translator, the checker, or both.

Post-editing, another term sometimes used with regard to making changes to texts for translation or translated texts, does not concern us here, as it is associated with machine translation, which is a subject that lies outside our field of enquiry.

For the purpose of this study, the process of checking other people's translations will be referred to as 'revision' (as opposed to self-revision, a subject that does not concern us here). This is the generally preferred term for the checking process where a draft translation produced by another party is read through, checked and corrected where necessary (see Young, 2006; Künzli, 2005, p. 31; Mossop, 2001, p. 169). Just occasionally the terms 'check' and 'checker' will be here used as alternatives. The lexeme REVIEW will also be retained as a general term. The main of area of conflict of opinion, however, is evidently whether the notion of 'revision' should extend to the job of 'correcting' or 'improving' the style of the original draft. Young (ibid.) states that "it is

not part of the reviser's brief to change the style". However, whether or not it is the reviser's task to tackle issues of style very much depends on 1) the question of what constitutes style, given the genre or text type involved, the context of the word or phrase for possible amendment, and the readership, among other parameters, and 2) the reviser's possible brief. The question of brief is discussed in more detail in Chapter 9.

Chapter 3 THE ROLE AND SCOPE OF REVISION

Despite the seeming interest in, and importance of, the revision of translation, relatively little has been written on the subject (the suggestion by the Task Force on the Quality Management Approach [2004, p. 6] that this is not the case is, frankly, baffling). This dearth of enquiry is acknowledged by Mossop (2001, p.v) in what is one of the very few – if not the only – textbook written on the subject of the editing and revising of translations (*Revising and Editing for Translators*). Thus, apart from this work, the bibliographical references in this essay are mainly articles and papers given at conferences or written in specialist periodicals.

Künzli states (2005, p.31) that translation revision is a common practice, and refers to a report produced in 1998 by Horguelin and Brunette, which states that 66% of translations done in Belgium are revised. He also mentions that around 80% of translations are revised in international organisations such as the UN. It has thus become a "well-defined step in the process of producing translations" (Künzli, p.31). My own experience in recent years as translator of all the speeches in Finnish given in each part-session in the European Parliament corroborates this. The translations I produce are revised in-house (by the commissioning agent) and then are subjected to sampled revision in the European Parliament itself. The importance of the role of the reviser is stressed by Robertson (2006, pp. 26-28) in the context of the forthcoming CEN standard for translation services: "every translation .. must be reviewed by a second person with the same language and domain competencies." Although I would argue that this is probably an unrealistic goal in the light of what follows here, the argument which Robertson proposes that "even the

best translations are likely to have errors or omissions" would seem incontestable, even if the phrase 'are likely to' might have been more comfortably supplanted by 'might well'. Künzli (forthcoming a, p.2) reaches the conclusion that "demand for translation revision will probably grow rather than diminish". He also raises the issue of how important revision is as a component in syllabi for translator trainees, as, given the range of services that professional translators tend to offer in their marketing, internet forum entries, etc. "most translators-to-be will actually work in parallel as revisers" (Künzli, 2005, p. 42).

On the other hand, revision is by no means a foolproof solution. Indeed, it can be fraught with problems, such as time, cost, subject-matter competencies and three clearly identifiable domains of reviser error: under-revision (failure to pick up errors), over-revision (introduction of errors in the revised draft), and hyper–revision (unnecessary changes) (see Künzli, 2005, p. 33). Furthermore, the report of 18 June 2004 to the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP) by the Task Force on the Quality Management Approach states that quality in translation is considerably subjective (p. 2) and reaches the conclusion that "revision is itself an imperfect art and does not necessarily ensure that an inherently bad product will be made perfect" (p.7). The theme of uncertainty is taken up by Künzli (forthcoming b, p.5) where he advances the notion, based on Tirkkonen-Condit, that translators are called upon frequently to make choices among a range of possible translation equivalents, causing uncertainty in the process of translation, and that this extends to the context of translation revision. His view is based on an experiment he conducted in which ten professional translators reviewed a draft translation in which the original translator had left a choice of terminology 'open', giving four options (ibid.).

Included in the revisers' brief was the instruction to endeavour to solve the terminology problem using all the resources at their disposal (dictionaries, on-line glossaries and Google). Of the 10, nine either continued to leave the choice open or opted for what the domain specialist (the final reviewer) considered to be the wrong item of terminology. Only one of the revisers managed to track down what he deduced as the correct choice, which, as it happens, was not included in the open list the translator had provided. This serves in part to illustrate the view that submitting a translation checked by one reviser to an end user is prone to a measure of risk.

Although the practice of translation revision is clearly a common one, there is nothing approaching a common policy regarding how translators and revisers are selected for a given project. Emma Wagner et al. (2002, p. 86) describe how translation revision tends to be organised inside the European Union institutions. The authors state that both senior and junior translation staff assume the role of reviser. They then go on to make what in my view is a rather worrying statement: "Junior staff may be encouraged to revise or check translations produced by their more experienced colleagues". This to me suggests a rather arbitrary approach to revision and one that ignores the notion of expertise playing a crucial role in the revision process. This senior-junior construct, also referred to in Mossop (p.144), thus seems to me to be a bogus one, at least if the end product is for publication or is to be used in a commercial context (admittedly, much of Mossop's focus is on the training of translators and/or translation revisers, a subject which, again, does not concern us here, although elsewhere he claims [ibid, p. xi] that in his experience "revision is too difficult a task for even the best senior undergraduate students"). Nevertheless, with regard to Wagner et al., at least the matter of revision has been given

some thought, even if the solutions may not be completely satisfactory. Mossop also alludes once or twice (p. 143) to a hierarchy of expertise between the translator and reviser, when he states that the translator may have more inherent knowledge of the text than the reviser, when the latter first embarks on the revision task. He even mentions the use of a third party specialist in the resolution of areas of disagreement (p. 144), in the form, for example, of a native speaker of the source language (cf. Chapter 6, scenarios 3 and 5). Nevertheless, in my experience, many commissioners of translations (translation agencies) seem to think that anyone is competent to revise a translation as long as this involves the same language pair and same direction as that in the original translation task (see Chapter 9). Revision is likely to be thought of as a clearly subsidiary exercise, often reflected in agencies making totally unsubstantiated estimates of the time needed to perform a given task, presumably to keep in line with corporate budgets. Whether or not the reviser is competent in the subject matter or up to any particular linguistic challenges inherent in the project would appear to be glossed over. This study is partly an attempt to address this situation and provide a framework within which the translation community could approach the task of revision more coherently, at least from the angle of translator and reviser expertise.

Before I examine the notion of expertise and its relevance to the revision of translations, it is perhaps appropriate to reflect upon what the reviser's task actually should - or should not − consist of. In an ideal world, the reviser would have a brief. Unfortunately, as Künzli points out (2005, p.40), revisers often receive the same task description as the translator (see Chapter 9). He also goes on to say that, as revisers often work to tight deadlines (in the business world) it would help if they knew what to focus on. For

example, can the original translator be trusted with regard to terminology? (I once did a translation for a Belgian agency in which I was asked to highlight EU terminology I was sure of or which I had researched. This for me was a rare instance of an agency attempting to define more clearly the task of the person later selected to revise the text.) Young (2006) also underlines the importance of the reviser knowing whether the text, if it is specialised, has been translated by a domain specialist. If this is the case, the reviser may be asked to "check only language and style, but not terminology" (cf. Künzli, forthcoming b, p.1). It is worth noting here that Künzli, in contrast with Young, assumes that style *is* likely to be included as an aspect of revision. One thing that all appear to concur on is that it is the task of the reviser to check that the translation in question is reliable, i.e. accurate. As Mossop (p.7) puts it: "Ensuring accuracy is a key task of revisers". Another area of general agreement is that a translated text should not be altered *unnecessarily*. This is a key issue and is dealt with in some depth in Chapters 5 and 7.

At a talk I gave in Plymouth in March 2006 to a group consisting mainly of professional translators, I proposed that the task of the reviser should cover at least the following, unless the actor commissioning the revision task specifies otherwise (though the examples given are with specific reference to English as the target language of the translation):

a. Checking reliability.

Does the translation contain the same information as the source text (SL)? For example, if the source text says 'June' and the translation says 'July' this is not an accurate translation and the reviser needs to make the necessary change. The same principle applies to misinterpretations of grammar: wrong tense, wrong preposition, misuse of

articles, etc. It also concerns misinterpretations of lexis. Omissions also fall within this category. As a general rule, it is probably fair to say that if a single word has been omitted, it should be provided by the reviser (as long as the reviser understands the language of the ST!), but in the case of larger portions of text, there is perhaps a case for arguing in favour of referring the text back to the original translator. Adding text unnecessarily (or, at least, mistakenly) also comes under this heading.

Many such errors are often the result of 'slips' rather than general incompetence on the part of the translator. Indeed, in the world of professional translation revision, we are rarely concerned with the original translator's poor use of language as such, but whether he/she has interpreted the source text correctly. This, in my opinion, is a notion that needs to be taken strict account of when approaching the issue of revising other people's translations in a business context. In other words, it should be established right from the start whether or not the translator whose work is being revised is a professional translator or otherwise. If he or she is not, then the whole process of revision with regard to that particular project may well need to be, itself, reviewed, i.e. the text may have to be retranslated. On the other hand, if the translation has been produced by a well established, professional translator, this should in itself be enough to induce a reviser to balk at making unnecessary or purely subjective changes.

b. Correcting typos

This entails correcting mechanical slips, including spelling mistakes, e.g. 'form' for 'from'.

c. Style

Style covers a huge area, but it could be argued that the reviser should address such problematic issues in the target text (TT) as: tautology, inappropriate register (possibly subject to consultation [on the matter of genre] with one of the parties involved: translator, translation commissioner, end user, etc.), and issues of consistency, punctuation, pragmatics, etc.

Again, the reviser working on a text produced by a professional translator should not need to do a lot of work on such areas if the translator has expertise in the target language (the notion of expertise is discussed in depth in Chapter 6). The amendments would be made to enhance a text's readability rather than impose any subjective viewpoint.

Another possible area of revision is obviously the checking of terminology (specialist language). The need to do this, however, should probably be established prior to the exercise. Other areas, such as layout, formatting, eradication of factual error (which is not due to typos), and so on, probably lie outside the normal remit of a reviser, unless, again, it has been agreed otherwise.

What I have covered here under likely translation reviser's brief almost perfectly concurs with the official guidelines for assessing other people's translations in order to approve membership of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI) put out by that organisation. This organisation also, however, includes the issue of layout, which I would argue, though not in any detail here, might be thought of as the responsibility of the translation project coordinator e.g. the commissioning translation agency, chief editor in the case of translated texts for publication in magazines, etc. (These two categories of translation commissioner account for roughly 95% of my personal translation output.)

To conclude this section, then, it is likely that translation revision is an extremely important phase in the production of translations, even though not very much is documented on the subject. The scope of a reviser's remit, whether real or imagined, seems to vary considerably, and this is at least partly due to a lack of any consistent approach to how translations should be revised. As an investigation of one aspect of the issue, this study examines a set of possible translator-reviser scenarios in which a hierarchy of expertise, both linguistic and domain-related, is proposed. This could in turn be used as a frame of reference when making selections regarding the translator and reviser for a given translation project.
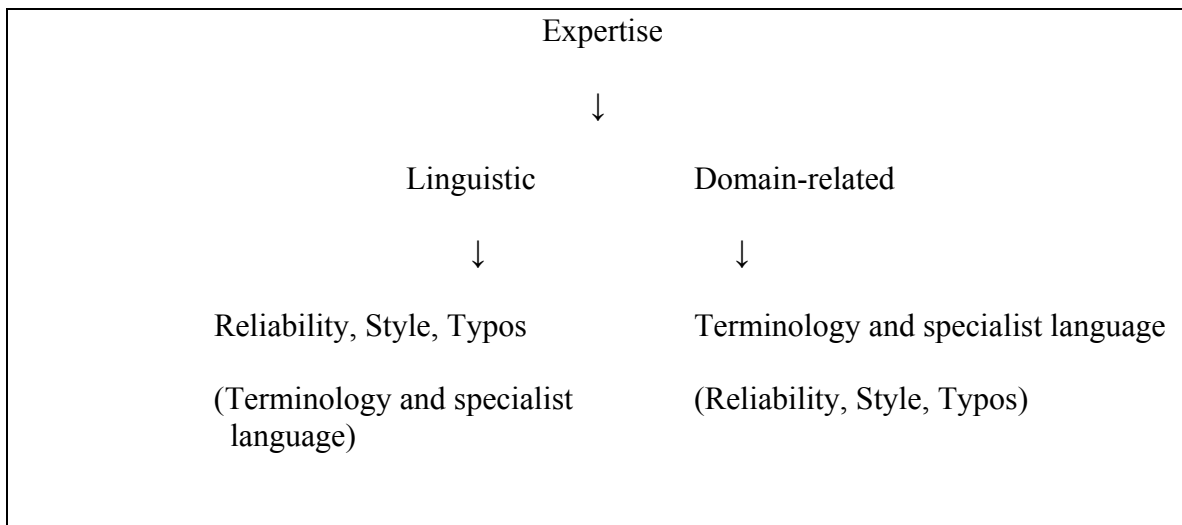
Chapter 4 ACKNOWLEDGING AND ESTABLISHING THE HIERARCHY OF EXPERTISE IN TRANSLATOR-REVISER SCENARIOS AS AN AID TO THE REVISION PROCESS

Dr Nicholas Anderson is on the Management Committee of the Chartered Institute of Linguists, a UK institution of some 6,500 members, which serves the interests of professional linguists and acts as an accredited awarding body. In a letter in the ITI (Institute of Translation and Interpreting) Bulletin in 2005, Anderson, commenting on the proposed CEN standard for translation services, makes a distinction between domain-specialist and linguistic expert, in the context of translating and translation revision. He implies the existence of an inherent hierarchy of domain-related expertise when he says: "a translation made by a competent domain specialist may not need, and will not be improved by, anything more than a linguistic check". He also adds that it is likely to be hard to find two domain specialists of equal competence. He, moreover, warns of the dangers of revisers charged with making purely linguistic checks of specialist texts extending their role to the revision of specialist language. But he also states that domain specialists that carry out translation revision, but who are not linguistic experts, can produce poor results. All of which tends to suggest that linguistic experts would have a key role in any translation revision scenario, and domain specialists in a good number of them.

What is patently not addressed here, nor elsewhere in the literature, however, is a means of establishing, or at least acknowledging, the hierarchy of competencies involved in a given translation project.

Figure 4.1 shows how the notion of expertise in translation revision can be split into linguistic and domain-focused. Once that is established, the tasks of the reviser may be specified accordingly. The linguist specialist reviser will be responsible for the categories of reliability, style, and typos, with the added task of checking terminology and specialist language only if competent to do so. The domain specialist checks terminology and specialist language, and, similarly, does linguistic checking if absolutely necessary (e.g. correction of typos, flagging omissions, etc.).

Figure 4.1: *Proposed profile for a division of labour for revisers of translations (the tasks identified in parenthesis suggest supplementary reviser tasks)*

Expertise

↓

Linguistic   Domain-related

↓   ↓

Reliability, Style, Typos   Terminology and specialist language

(Terminology and specialist   (Reliability, Style, Typos)
language)

It is possible to identify at least six scenarios demonstrating a possible hierarchy of expertise mapped onto the structure in the above diagram. These are:

1. Translator: linguistic / domain expert – Reviser: linguistic / domain expert

2. Translator: linguistic / domain expert – Reviser: linguistic expert

3. Translator: linguistic expert – Reviser: domain expert

4. Translator: linguistic expert – Reviser: domain expert, unfamiliar with source language (SL)

5. Translator: linguistic expert – Reviser: linguistic expert

6. Translator: domain expert with no or little linguistic expertise – Reviser: linguistic expert

This does not pretend to be an exhaustive list, but will hopefully serve to portray a set of typical scenarios that could obtain in commercial (business world) translation in which the hierarchy of expertise may be evaluated. What follows is a brief description of what these scenarios imply.

Scenario 1 (Translator: linguistic / domain expert – Reviser: linguistic / domain expert)

This is the ideal scenario, where the translator and reviser have comparable levels of linguistic expertise (based on qualifications and experience) and are also specialised in the subject matter (based on qualifications and translational experience [as opposed to experience of practising a profession that relates to the domain concerned]). The notion of qualifications and experience is discussed in greater depth in Chapter 6. In this scenario the question of division of labour, translator/reviser, is likely to be dealt with easily with little advance planning needed.

Scenario 2 (Translator: linguistic / domain expert – Reviser: linguistic expert)

In this scenario the translation is carried out by a translator with linguistic and domain-focused expertise and is revised by a linguistic expert. The implication is that the reviser

can assume that the terminology and specialist language used is acceptable and can therefore focus on purely linguistic aspects (e.g. grammar slips) and textual aspects (e.g. omissions, factual slips and other typos, etc.)

Scenario 3 (Translator: linguistic expert – Reviser: domain expert)

Here the translation is done by a linguistic expert, probably with some or a great deal of experience translating the subject matter, but who may not necessarily be considered a true expert in the field. The reviser is an expert in the field, but may have less translation experience. Here the reviser can focus on terminology and specialist language, and give less attention to linguistic revision, unless there are obvious slips, in which case he/she can highlight these when returning the work. This practice will generally result in the linguistic expert having the final say in matters that are purely linguistic, and the specialist language expert making the final decision on terminology. Such a scenario might arise where a (fairly) specialised text needs to be translated from a 'less common' language. It may be hard to locate a translator who knows the SL, is a proficient, let alone native, writer of the TL, and a specialist in the subject concerned. A linguistic expert in translating the pair of languages concerned, and, in the best-case scenario, someone with a good deal of experience in translating the subject matter or related subject matter is chosen to draft the translation, and a domain expert checks it. The reviser in this case could, for example, be a native speaker of the SL and possibly capable, therefore, of checking reliability, and certainly, terminology, but perhaps not qualified - or, at least, less qualified - to deal with language problems *per se*.

Scenario 4 (Translator: linguistic expert – Reviser: domain expert, unfamiliar with source language (SL))

Here the reviser's brief must be limited to checking terminology and specialist language as he/she has no knowledge of the SL and can therefore provide no real linguistic feedback, except, once again, if there are obvious errors such as spelling mistakes, which may be highlighted in the way proposed in scenario 3. This combination may seem 'riskier' than some of the others, but in the case of an SL which is relatively 'rare' in the translation world it is presumably to be preferred to no revision at all. The reviser here may not even be a translator, nor a linguist at all, or might well be a 'third party' specialist (see Chapter 3). Künzli (forthcoming a), based on Brunette, Gagon and Hine, says that, in a study, monolingual revision (revision without the source text) was shown to yield worse results than bilingual revision, but suggests that at least it avoided the revision bugbears of over-, hyper- and under-revision, already touched upon and discussed in more depth in Chapter 5. Because of the 'riskier' aspect of the revision process, the translator should probably have some expertise in the subject-matter, if only in terms of experience.

Scenario 5 (Translator: linguistic expert – Reviser: linguistic expert)

In this scenario there is no great emphasis on domain expertise (e.g. the text may be of a very general nature or the client needs the translation for information purposes only and is not expecting accurate use of terminology). Here, then, the checking process is almost entirely linguistic. However, there may be some terminology changes if the reviser knows more about the end client than the translator with regard to what specialist terminology

that client uses in its documentation. This can happen in the case of a translation agency that commissions the translation and then revises it in the office before sending it on to the client. But there is an additional sub-scenario that may obtain here. This is where the agency is located in a country in which the SL is spoken and one of their staff, with a good knowledge of the language of the TT, revises the translation. There is obviously added value in having a native speaker of the ST language reviewing such translations in terms of checking reliability, but there may, on the other hand, be what I shall from now on refer to as contentious revising, where the checker is making unnecessary changes and even introducing errors, possibly based on native language (L1) interference. So the dividing line would seem to be between checking reliability and checking style. It is to be assumed that the experienced native speaker of the TL acting as linguistic expert (in this case the translator) can be relied on more definitely in matters of style (including use of register, adherence to genre norms, and even issues of pragmatics), and so the reviser in this case restricts him/herself to matters of accuracy and correct interpretation, for which latter, it might be argued, a native speaker of the SL is frequently the best option.

Scenario 6 (Translator: domain expert with no or little linguistic expertise – Reviser: linguistic expert)

This last scenario is – probably unfortunately - common enough in business, where someone in-house for example has a text to translate, but does not want to pay the going rate for a 'proper' translation. He/she essays a rendering and then gets a translator to revise it. It is often the case that, far from saving money, he/she ends up spending more because the translation is so unacceptable that the reviser, the linguistic expert, decides it

would be easier to rewrite it. Mossop (p.14) mentions rewriting, in connection with any text and not necessarily a translated one, as an option for editing text "so badly written that it is easier to abandon the existing wording and re-express the text's content with newly composed sentences and possibly a new text structure". In such a case the reviser would probably need to re-negotiate the job as a translation proper. Sometimes, though, the draft translation can be good enough just to work on as a normal revision task. Nevertheless, if the revision work is being costed in terms of time, which is most likely the case, the overall time taken to achieve an acceptable translated text may well have greatly exceeded the originally anticipated timespan. It may also have worked out cheaper for the client to have submitted the original text for translation, as translations are virtually always costed in terms of word count. This scenario may, of course, not involve considerations of money, but may be a case of the writer of the ST simply wanting 'to have a 'go'. As the translation profession develops it is to be hoped that the type of 'feedback' that writers and business people producing such texts receive on the matter of translation will gradually discourage them from these DIY attempts, in consideration of the fact that they are often a waste of time and, possibly, money too.

In the next sections we move on from these suggested scenarios, which are intended to show how important the role of 'expert' is, to examine how they might work based on that very notion of expertise. To do this, we will first look at some of the areas of revision that fail (Chapter 5) and see how these problems can be addressed with reference to two studies undertaken on actual instances of revision.

Chapter 5 UNDER, HYPER- AND OVER-REVISION

Whether we are working within the framework of such scenarios or not, there are three results of revision work that probably need to be avoided: under-, hyper- and over-revision. These terms are explained in Chapter 3 and are the English translations by Künzli (as notified by him in a private email to me) of French terms proposed by Horguelin and Brunette in their book *Pratique de la Révision*. Although within the entire framework of the matter of translation revision we are obviously interested in under-revision, the failure to notice or address an error or omission in the draft translation, an area which all scenarios 1-6 take into account, if only implicitly, it is one which does not immediately concern us here, as my aim is to focus on the notion of expertise as a decisive factor in revising translated texts and it could be argued that under-revision may sometimes, or frequently, merely result from 'slips' on the part of the reviser. Hyper-revision, making 'unnecessary' changes to the translation, and over-revision, where a change is made which is 'wrong', and which may adversely affect the translation's reliability, represent active interference by the reviser which may or may not be warranted. Moreover, it is both the contention of Künzli (2005, p. 35) and that of Mossop (p. v and p. xi) that many problems of revision are in the areas of hyper- and over-revision.

Künzli (2005; pp. 33-34) describes an experiment in which ten professional translators were asked to revise three draft translations, one of which was legal. A legal translation expert (with twenty years' experience of teaching legal translation) was then asked to evaluate the changes that were made. The main aim was to see whether they were

"justified or not". Whilst the revisers were working, use was made of think-aloud protocols (TAPs) where some of the participants stated that they should not make "unnecessary changes". What is interesting in this exercise is that, despite the participants' good intentions not to over- or hyper-revise, such types of revision accounted for 30% of all the changes made, according to the 'expert'.

What I call contentious revision, making 'unnecessary' changes, is one that Mossop makes much of. In *Editing and Revising for Translators* (2001), he has this to say: "(New) revisers tend to waste a great deal of time making unnecessary changes in texts" (p. v), and again on p. xi. "They (undergraduates) make vast numbers of unnecessary changes". Admittedly, his book is very much a pedagogic reference work and he is referring here to novice translators and translation revisers, but he extends the argument to a more general level when he touches on the psychology of the reviser who believes he/she has been assigned to find mistakes and who therefore makes sure he/she finds some (p. 119). There may be a commercial motive for this: the reviser is being paid to revise and if he/she returns a translation with no changes, will it suggest that the task has not been done properly? Professional commissioners of translation revision may pooh-pooh the notion, but there is certainly hearsay evidence, in my experience, that this attitude obtains in certain quarters. It is, furthermore, a sentiment expressed by Künzli (forthcoming c, p. 7) when he states that it may be hypothesised that revisers "feel obliged to make a minimum number of changes to prove that they actually deserve their money". Mossop (ibid p. 149), in a 'Summary of Revision Principles', of which there are 20 in all, states: "3. Do not ask whether a sentence *can* be improved but whether it *needs* to be improved" (his italics). This is echoed in Künzli's experiment at a point where one

of the participants in the study makes a change even though, going by the TAP, she is not satisfied with her solution. Here Künzli suggests that she is reverting to the "implicit principle ….. to ask herself if something <u>can</u> be changed rather than if it <u>needs</u> to be changed" (his underlinings). Both Künzli (forthcoming a, p.4) and Mossop (p. 149) develop this idea by suggesting that revisers should be able to justify the changes they make to avoid changes that are due to subjective judgments, personal preferences, or mere whim.

All this has the appearance of being very reasonable, but it is one thing to condemn 'unnecessary' changes, quite another to judge whether a change is necessary or otherwise. How exactly does one gauge what is necessary/unnecessary? Some attempt at solving this is the subject of the following sections, in which it is argued that, ultimately, it is only consensus of expert opinion that can decide whether an incidence of translation revision is necessary or not, and it is therefore the notions of 'expertise' and 'consensus' that we turn our attention to now.

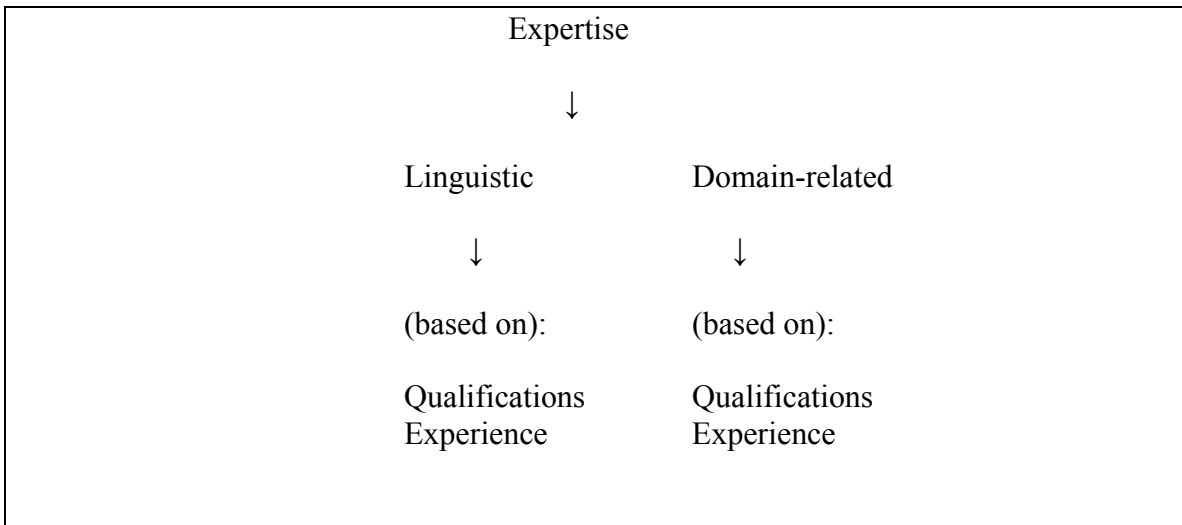## Chapter 6 THE NOTIONS OF EXPERTISE AND CONSENSUS

6.1 Expertise

The scenarios proposed in Chapter 4, and the professional translator-reviser construct generally, assume that a given level of expertise exists and plays an important role in the translation/translation revision process. But what is expertise, and how can it be measured?

In *Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner's English Dictionary*, 'expertise' is defined as "special skill or knowledge that is acquired by training, study or practice." The same word is defined in *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English* as "expert skill, knowledge, or judgement". The latter defines 'knowledge' as "awareness or familiarity gained by experience". In the case of translators (and translation revisers), it seems reasonable to posit the notion that expertise is based on qualifications (i.e. study/training/examination [assessment]), on the one hand, and experience, on the other. Admittedly, attempts at specifying just what translator expertise consists of have been made before (see, for example, Bell pp.40-41), but in the surveys I intend to present in Chapter 7 my aim is not to explore the whole vast field of the translator's 'knowledge base' and their ability to decode and encode text, nor any other particular competence as 'translator', but focus on qualifications and experience as aspects of linguistic expertise and how they might be brought to bear on an examination of consensus of opinion with regard to certain genuine instances of revision. In addition, Chapter 8 gives further examples of translation revision which is based on subject-matter expertise as an aid to enhancing the quality of a translated text. Consensus is not discussed in that section,

however, as it was impossible in practical terms to survey the opinions of more than one actor for each of the two examples discussed (there were simply not that many available who had the necessary linguistic skills, domain knowledge and willingness to participate).

If we accept, then, that translation expertise and translation revision expertise is based on qualifications and experience (just exactly how these may be measured I have proposed a solution for in Chapter 7 .1.3), we can establish a paradigm for such expertise, as shown in Figure 6.1.

Figure 6.1: *Proposed paradigm for translational and/or translation revision expertise*

```
                          Expertise

                             ↓

            Linguistic            Domain-related

                ↓                       ↓

            (based on):            (based on):

            Qualifications         Qualifications
            Experience             Experience
```

This simple diagram may be mapped onto Figure 4.1 in order to establish both what we are talking about when we mention translational and/or revision expertise and the tasks that may be associated with them.

6.2 Consensus

In *Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner's English Dictionary*, 'consensus' is defined as "general agreement among a group of people". The *Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English* has an additional entry for 'consensus': "majority view" (in its attributive function).

Translators and translation revisers tend to work alone. In the possible absence of the availability of general linguistic consensus in the context of translation and the revision of translation, the main resource is the typical translator's 'toolbox': dictionaries, grammars, style guides, the internet, etc. i.e. written reference material which can be consulted at any stage of the translation/revision process. Künzli (forthcoming a; p. 8), in another empirical study on translation revision, discusses an example of hyper-revision (unnecessary change) where the party examining the revisions (although it is not entirely clear whether this was a linguistic or domain expert) resorts to the use of a German language style guide to solve a problem, as in such a case it was "difficult to reliably assess to what extent there is a general consensus in matters like this". Nevertheless, it is the relevant entry in the style guide (*Duden: Richtiges und gutes Deutsch*) that is used to come to the conclusion that the change in question is to be classed as hyper-revision.

But another resource that is available to anyone working in the field of translation is the opinion of 'live' experts. The use of live expert opinion in the generation of translations (including revision) is a common enough practice. Consultation with peers, native speakers of the SL, etc. may take the form of a friendly email enquiry, or, perhaps less often (less diplomatic?), a phone call, where, for example, confirmation of the meaning of a term, for example, may be sought. A general email to a body of translators can result in a number of opinions, agreements or disagreements being submitted. Another current

phenomenon is that of the 'translator's forum', where opinions on translation solutions may be exchanged on-line. A typical example is ProZ, at www.proz.com. Here, there is a facility for translators to ask for a translational opinion and a further facility for agreeing or disagreeing with the opinion(s) given. Majority expert opinion, or at least general agreement, would therefore appear to be a feasible option for making linguistic decisions, *as long as those consulted or tendering their opinions can be deemed to be experts.* Again, just what I propose constitutes linguistic expertise when it comes to translation and revision will be examined in Chapter 7.

With regard to consensus on subject-matter issues, the same things are true. There are reference works and the internet, and there is personal opinion. However, anyone can look up a term in a dictionary, be it monolingual or bilingual, but whether or not it is the correct term for the particular context can only be verified by a domain expert (cf. Chapter 4: scenario 3). If opinion on terminology, for example, can be obtained from a number of experts in the field, this would be a valuable tool for both translation and revision.

Working on the principle, therefore, that a consensus of opinion by linguistic and subject-matter (domain) experts (in terms of their qualifications and experience) is a useful tool for establishing an incidence of hyper- (or over-) revision, the next two sections (chapters) deal with examining how this expertise might work in practice. Chapter 7 concerns linguistic expertise, for which I organised two studies to investigate and test this. Chapter 8 deals with domain-related expertise and looks and some examples of revision practices that seem viable when it comes to the practicalities of organising the revision of translation. The studies are also intended to serve as a frame of reference for

scenarios 1, 2 and 5 (see Chapter 7.3.) The examples of domain-related revision dealt

with in Chapter 8 relate to scenarios 1, 3 and 4. Thus, the only scenario not illustrated is

scenario 6, which probably does not warrant further scrutiny.

Chapter 7 STUDIES (LINGUISTIC EXPERTISE)

7.1. Study I

7.1.1 Background

These studies concern the examination of linguistic expertise and consensus of opinion as a means of evaluating the validity of changes made by a reviser to an actual translated text. In Study I, the text in question was part of a speech given by a Finnish Member of the European Parliament (APPENDIX 1).

I am a regular (and, at present, virtually the sole) translator of the speeches in Finnish of the Finnish Members of the European Parliament, and, as such, contribute to what is known as the 'Rainbow' edition, the first edition of the Verbatim Report of Proceedings, being the compilation of texts of speeches by MEPs in readiness for public access. These parliamentary part-sessions occur once, or twice, every month, except in August, and I have been translating them now since 1997. Over that time I have obviously accrued a good deal of subject expertise (the subject-matter is inevitably wide-ranging, but there is consistent use of terminology and conventional phraseology which the translators of the speeches in all the various languages need to be conversant with), as well as the linguistic expertise that is required to solve the challenges of the genre, e.g. establishing the right formal/colloquial balance, adherence to in-house rules on lexical and grammatical preferences, leaning towards a rhetorical rather than a more 'informative' style, etc.

The normal revision procedure for this project is as follows. First, there is a check by another Finnish-English translator (or, at least, someone with a knowledge of Finnish). Then there is an in-house check by the agency for compliance with style rules, acceptable

terminology, and general sense. Thirdly, there is sample checking by the end client (carried out by linguists employed by the European Parliament). The change highlighted in Study 1 (see APPENDIX 1) was one implemented in the third stage of this procedure; i.e. by a Finnish-English translator and translation reviser employed by the European Parliament.

7.1.2 Aim

The aim of the study was to see whether consensus of opinion among translation experts could be relied on to establish what I considered personally to be one incidence of hyper-, and, possibly, over-revision in a translation that I had done for an agency whose end client was the European Parliament. The relevant text is given in APPENDIX 1.

7.1.3 Participants

To conduct the study, I needed to choose participants who were, according to my previous description of what constituted expertise, both qualified and experienced translators of Finnish into English. In terms of qualifications, this was not so very easy to establish. Given that there are few recognised examinations in translating from Finnish to English, as such (there is the Institute of Linguists Diploma in Translation, which gives some accreditation, although it is not a requirement for translating for any institution whatsoever, to the best of my knowledge, and there is the qualification of 'sworn' translator for residents of Finland, whose area of accreditation does not extend to the UK, the country in which the study was being carried out), membership of accredited translation institutions, particularly those whose membership criteria were strictest,

presented itself as a reasonable frame of reference. There were several to investigate. The Finnish Association of Translators and Interpreters (*Suomen kääntäjien ja tulkkien liitto*) has no formal requirements for membership. The UK-based Institute of Linguists does, but there were only five Finnish-English translators listed as members at the time of the study. Clearly, this was not a large enough number to obtain sufficiently valid data. The American Translators Association has a substantial list, but there were few names I personally recognised (the Finnish-English translators' world is a relatively narrow one), and I needed to be able to rely on a substantial response to my survey. Furthermore, it occurred to me that I would be likely to obtain results more easily if I surveyed members of an association to which I myself belonged.

I therefore chose as my main source of expertise in the domain of Finnish-English translators the UK-based Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI). This is a prestigious organisation in the translation industry, both in the UK and worldwide, which has been in existence since 1996. Furthermore, and crucially, I think, it is a major resource for locating freelance translators *globally*. It currently (and at the time) lists/listed 13 translators of Finnish into English. Of these, seven had been formally examined in this language combination (including myself). Of the other six, four come under the category of 'experienced' (members for so long that formal assessment was waived), and the other two had been assessed in the combination English-Finnish and thought sufficiently accomplished to be entered on this list too. To achieve a majority of those formally assessed I eliminated one of the 'experienced' names. It is also important to realise that membership of ITI also requires proof of having completed a certain volume of translation in the relevant language pair, which, for its par, demonstrates a

considerable amount of experience. My criterion of 'experience' would therefore be partly met. (To add weight to this, I have indicated in Figure 7.1 below if the participant has 10 years or more experience in translating Finnish into English, according to the knowledge I have.)

All members are either English or Finnish native speakers (the latter being virtually bilingual, for one reason or another).

In addition to the 11 members referred to (the 13 minus myself and the one elimination). I also contacted three others. One was personally known to me, a Finnish native speaker, virtually bilingual and in business as a translator for many years. This person and the two others contacted are regular contributors to the internet-based ProZ forum (see Chapter 6.2).The latter two are experienced translators of many years. They are based in North America. One is a member of the American Translators Association. They are both native speakers of English.

I thus had a total of 14 freelance translators offering the relevant language pair, all of them greatly experienced, and most of them very well qualified. This, admittedly, was not a great number, but I was restricted by the number of translators in this language pair anyway, as well as the unwanted approach whereby I would be contacting people who had never heard of me!

Figure 7.1 sets out the list of those surveyed with their relevant details. Names have been changed.

Figure 7.1: *List of Finnish-English translators contacted for Study 1 and relevant details pertaining to them*

Name	Native English speaker / Native Finnish speaker = (virtually) bilingual with English [1]	Member of ITI	10+ years' experience
Anu	Finnish	Yes	Yes
Dawn	English	Yes	Yes
Hanna	Finnish	Yes	Unkown
Ian	English	Yes	Unknown
Jenita	Finnish	Yes	Yes
Liisa	Finnish	Yes	Unknown
Linda	English	Yes	Yes
Matti	Finnish	No	Unknown
Max	English	Yes	Yes
Richard	English	No	Yes
Robert	English	No	Yes
Tarja	Finnish	Yes	Yes
Tuija	Finnish	Yes	Unknown
Virva	Finnish	Yes	Yes

[1] Although membership of ITI reflects a competence on a par with a native speaker of English, it was anticipated that the native speaker of Finnish criterion might provide further insight into the results of the study, as explained later on (see Chapter 7.*3.1*)

To sum up, of the 14, 6 are native English speakers, the rest bilingual, or virtually bilingual, Finnish-English speakers. Eleven are ITI members. At least nine have more than ten years' experience in this language combination (regarding the 'unknowns' it was

evident that most had the equivalent number of years' experience, though not necessarily in that language pair).

7.1.4 Method

Each of the participants was sent a simple survey featuring one instance of revision (See APPENDIX 1 for the questionnaire). The survey questionnaire was sent as an attachment to an email, in the body of which I simply asked the participants for their help in some research in the area of (translation) revision. The participant is asked to look at the original Finnish, the translation and the revised version, and answer two questions. These are:

1. in your opinion, is the change a) necessary, b) unnecessary or c) unnecessary and unacceptable (introduces an error)? (choose one answer)

2. can you reasons for your decision?

The first question is therefore one of multiple choice (only one solution should be selected) and the second open-ended. The first was crucial to the data which would either confirm my opinion (that this was a case of hyper-/over-revision and therefore unnecessary), or not. The second question was intended to obtain opinions and ideas regarding some of the linguistic points implied and to see whether participants would 'pick up' any of the linguistic considerations that I describe in the following section (Chapter 7.*1.5*).

7.1.5 Some linguistic background and anticipated responses

The change highlights a problem with the translation of the Finnish word 'hyvää' (nominative 'hyvä), which in the draft stands as 'excellent' and in the revised version 'good'. *Uusi Suomi-Englanti suur-sanakirja* is the standard general Finnish-English dictionary on the market, and considered to be a very reliable authority, as dictionaries go. This dictionary cites the following English equivalents for 'hyvä':

good, nice, delicious (adjectives), welfare (noun) + additional idiomatic interpretations

The translator (myself), however, opted for 'excellent' as the translation in this case. I had several reasons for this:

- The dictionary is probably best seen as a guide rather than a sacrosanct authority: furthermore, no dictionary has space for every probability.

- The Finnish 'hyvä' probably works harder in Finnish than the English 'good', which is slightly weaker in its effect. There is also the slightly more dubious contention that Finns tend to understate their opinions, whereas English speakers are more prone to grandiloquence.

- The collocation 'much good work' tends to connote charity work or service to humankind. This was borne out by a search on the CobuildDirect Corpus, which is a database of texts on computer hosted by the University of Birmingham currently consisting of approximately 330 million words of text in English. The concordancer tool allows the researcher to locate instances of a word or phrase in context within sub-corpora of UK, US and Australian English as used in the press, books, radio, conversation, lectures and miscellaneous other texts. There were 13 hits found, eight of which either directly related to charity or implied some kind of useful social service. This was not felt by me to be the right

connotation in respect of a parliamentary report. However, this was probably a moot point and did not completely hold water, it has to be said.

- The repeat of the word 'excellent' was no bar to its use in this genre, one which attracts rhetoric.

Some or all of these I anticipated the various participants would pick up and mention.

7.1.6 Results and analysis

The results are set forth in Figure 7.2.

Figure 7.2: *Results of Study I*

Name	Thought change was necessary	Thought change was unnecessary	Thought change was unnecessary and unacceptable	Did not understand task	Did not reply
Anu			√		
Dawn		√			
Hanna					√
Ian		√			
Jenita	√				
Liisa		√			
Linda		√			
Matti			√		
Max			√		
Richard	√				
Robert		√			
Tarja		√			
Tuija				√	
Virva					√

Of the 14, two did not reply and one did not understand the task (even after a little prompting). Data was thus obtained on the basis of 11 responses. Of these, nine (approximately 82%) considered that the change in question was unnecessary, therefore agreeing with me. Of these nine, Anu, Matti and Max were furthermore of the opinion that the change was unacceptable. Anu argued that 'hyvä' in Finnish could be interpreted as being more complimentary that the English translation 'good' would imply, which echoed my contention that the Finnish 'hyvä' probably works harder (has a broader range of meanings or uses) than English 'good'. Matti and Max both thought that the collocation 'much good work' did not seem to work, Matti suggesting that it "just doesn't sound right". Max gave what in my opinion was an obscure reason for avoiding this collocation, and I do not think it serves any purpose to mention it here. Nobody offered the view that 'much good work' connoted with charity, public service, etc. The remaining six, opting for 'unnecessary', though not unacceptable, gave various reasons for their choice: Dawn and Robert thought the word 'good' too weak for the context, Ian claimed that there was no significant nuance in the difference between 'good' and 'excellent' in the context, while Tarja opined that, although the change was unnecessary, 'good' improved the translation. Jenita and Richard both considered the change was necessary, as, in their opinion, 'hyvä' should be translated as 'good' (the main meaning in the dictionary). Jenita made the additional remark that if the speaker had wanted to use the equivalent of 'excellent' he would have chosen another Finnish word, such as 'loistava', 'hieno' or 'erinomainen'. This sentiment was also expressed by Tarja, although she was one of the 'unnecessaries'. Richard commented on the repeat of the word 'excellent' so

soon after the previous use, and suggested that that was at least one reason for making the change.

7.2. Study 2

7.2.1 Background

Owing to the small sample of respondents and the intensely focused nature of the exercise in Study 1 (just one instance of linguistic revision), I regarded it as appropriate to run another study much along the same lines, in order to test the theory that reliance on consensus of expertise was a valid way of evaluating an instance of translation revision. In this case, however, I assumed that this would be a more straightforward task, as the linguistic associations were not quite as complex or as subtle as those in Study 1. Moreover, it would be interesting to contrast a lexical study (Study 1) with a grammatical one (this, Study 2).

The text for translation and revision was once again part of a speech given by a Finnish Member of the European Parliament. The change highlighted in Study 2 was one implemented in the first stage of the revision procedure described in 8.1.1; i.e. by another Finnish-English translator (or, at least, someone with a knowledge of Finnish).

7.2.2 Aim

The aim of the study was to see whether consensus of opinion among translation experts could be relied on to establish what I considered personally to be one incidence of hyper-revision in a translation that I had done for an agency whose end client was the European Parliament. The relevant text is given in APPENDIX 2.

7.2.3 Participants

The participants were the same as before except for Hanna and Virva, who did not respond to the survey in Study I.

7.2.4 Method

The method was virtually the same as for Study 1 (see APPENDIX 2 for the questionnaire). However, because some of the respondents in Study 1 had seemed to think that I should have proposed a solution myself, this time in the body of the email which I sent everyone I added the following text: "Let me just stress that there is no hard and fast solution to this nor is it any kind of test (of your ability, implied); it is simply meant as an appreciation of your opinion as a professional." I also mentioned that the change was not made by me; in fact, at no stage in either study did I suggest in the slightest what my role had been in the original translation/revision exercise.

7.2.5 Linguistic background and anticipated responses

There was a slight change in the focus in this study as I was looking for consensus on the issue of hyper-revision, though not over-revision. In other words, it was my view that the change was unnecessary, although in no way did it introduce an error. To obtain as broad a spectrum of opinion as possible, however, I left in the 'unacceptable' option in the questionnaire (see APPENDIX II).

The change highlights the translation of the Finnish 'tulisi', which in the draft stands as 'should' and in the revised version 'ought'. 'Tulisi' is thus a Finnish modal verb form.

Despite the notorious difficulties that are frequently associated with modal verbs in comparative linguistics, it would probably be accepted by most Finnish-English translators that the general English equivalent of 'tulisi' in this context is 'should' or 'ought to'. Given that the aim of the exercise was to establish that the change from 'should' to 'ought to' was *unnecessary*, I did not anticipate a great deal of disagreement, even though it occurred to me that some of the respondents would deliberate on the difference in 'meaning' of the two modal forms in English. One anticipated argument might have been that 'ought to' is perhaps too colloquial for a formal political speech, though this is surely arguable. The *Cobuild English Grammar* makes no distinction between 'should' and 'ought to' in any of the functions which they share (expressing expectations, making suggestions, etc.) although 'should' is apparently the preferred form when signalling a recommendation (see official reports passim), though no one picked this up, and, indeed, it was something that had also eluded me at the time. The *Cobuild English Grammar* is based on the Bank of English held at Birmingham University referred to in Chapter 7.*1.5*. It is therefore very much based on actual usage rather than any 'rules' of prescribed grammar. Swan, in Practical English Usage (p. 517), a work that has become a standard reference book in English language schools, apart from anywhere else, simply states: "*Should* is much more frequent than *ought*."

7.2.6 Results and analysis

The results are set forth in Figure 7.3.

Figure 7 3: *Results of Study 2*

Name	Thought change was necessary	Thought change was unnecessary	Thought change was unnecessary and unacceptable	Did not understand task	Did not reply
Anu		√			
Dawn		√			
Ian		√			
Jenita		√			
Liisa		√			
Linda		√			
Matti		√			
Max	√				
Richard		√			
Robert		√			
Tarja			√		
Tuija				√	

Of the 12, all replied, though one, again, did not understand the task. Data was thus obtained on the basis of 11 responses. Of these, 10 (approximately 91%) considered that the change in question was unnecessary, therefore agreeing with me. Of these 10, just one, Tarja, thought the change was unacceptable, arguing that the Finnish was not as strong as it would have been, had an alternative modal form been used, and which fitted in with her contention that 'ought to' was stronger than 'should' and was therefore not the equivalent translation here. This same notional difference between 'ought to' and 'should' was echoed by Anu and Max, the latter being so convinced that this difference existed that it was he who considered the change necessary. The rest all stated, in one

way or another, that there was no real difference, although one, Matti, suggested that 'ought to' was slightly more informal - a 'bit laid back', as he put it – but this was the only one of the participants who raised this point, this being one of the areas I had anticipated some comment on. Furthermore, most in the larger group, those who implied or opined that there was no big difference between the two, only seemed to reach their conclusion after some deliberation (recorded in the second section of the survey), showing that the exercise did not exactly smack of a cut and dried solution. Linda, who it happens is a past translator and reviser of the Finnish MEP speeches in the European Parliament, made the additional comment that she would have used 'should', by which I infer that 'ought to' might be considered a little too informal for these texts, at least in some contexts.

7.3. Conclusions of the studies

Drawing on the considerable expertise of the participants, the data obtained showed that some 82% and 91% of the groups returning the completed surveys thought the incidence of revision in the text unnecessary in both cases. Most of the linguistic issues I had anticipated (see Chapters 7.*1.5* and 7.*2.5*) were addressed, although, in Study 1 nobody suggested that 'much good work' connoted charity, etc. To be fair, the time they probably spent on the tasks compared to that I had spent digesting the various implications of the changes in the texts was fractional. On the whole, then, despite the small sample of responses, the result was satisfying in several ways:

   a. It gives weight to the principle pertaining to translation revision mentioned earlier, as espoused by Mossop and at least some of Künzli's trial participants,

that translations should be revised based on a *need* to make changes rather than the notion that changes *can* be made, thus giving rise to contentious revision (see Chapter 5).

b. It shows that there is a good deal of consensus of opinion in these instances of linguistic controversy and that the notion of expertise based on experience and qualifications may be a valid one.

c. Although the studies can be seen as stand-alone exercises, the results may be used as a framework of reference for translation-revision scenarios 1, 2 and 5 (the latter ignoring the sub-scenario of a non-native English speaker [non-bilingual English-Finnish] touched on in that scenario description [see Chapter 4]). These three scenarios require linguistic expertise on the part of the reviser. One then might argue that any translator with linguistic expertise according to the definition I have endeavoured to describe above would be a suitable candidate for a (linguistic) revision task as long as he/she is armed with the brief: "do not change the translation if you can, but only if you *need* to."

d. The studies (admittedly, more the case in Study 1 than Study 2) also give weight to an additional principle that is at least implied in this survey that, even more serious than making unnecessary changes, is the practice of revisers making a change *which introduces an error*.

These four areas of focus may serve as a point of departure for remedying some of the failures of translation revision, at least in the purely linguistic context. It might well serve too as part of a possible brief to the translation reviser by the actor commissioning the revision task (see Chapter 9).

7.4 Possible differences in attitude between the Finnish and the English native speakers

The number of UK-accredited Finnish-English translators being as small as it is, it seemed impractical just to survey those who were English native speakers, given the competencies of the Finnish native speakers which I have already described. As touched on in Chapter 7.*1.3*, I anticipated that the Finnish- and English-native speaker split might conceivably provide some further insight into the two linguistic 'problems' investigated in Studies 1 and 2. In fact there is little to report. Nonetheless, it may just be worth mentioning that some of the Finnish native speakers tended, unsurprisingly, to refer to the SL version rather more than the others, who perhaps had slightly more to say about the target version. What was to be welcomed, however, is the fact that there was no clear difference of opinion between these two groups across the two exercises.

**Chapter 8. TWO EXAMPLES OF REVISION WHOSE FOCUS IS DOMAIN
EXPERTISE**

What follow now are two examples of actual translations done by me, where domain
'experts' have made a significant contribution to the improvement of the translation in
terms of its professional references, professional readability and use of appropriate
terminology. The first is a revised text (abridged) where the reviser knows the SL
(Finnish), and the situation is therefore consistent with scenarios 1 and 3 (see Chapter 4).
With regard to the second, the domain expert reviser does not know the SL (Finnish).
This example is based on scenario 4 (see Chapter 4). Both revisers match the criteria for
expertise discussed in Chapter 6.1. In both cases they are experienced-based. As far as
formal qualifications, it is impossible to know if the European Parliament reviser has
been examined in the workings of the EU – one suspects not. In the case of the reviser of
the medical text, she has no formal medical qualification, but I would propose that if a
qualified doctor or nurse with no translation experience had revised the text the result
would have been equally, or perhaps, less valid (translators being more adept,
presumably, at managing texts than healthcare staff).

8.1. Domain-focused revision (scenarios 1 and 3)

APPENDIX 3 shows an example of a revision of a translated Finnish text, which is
actually an abridged and merged version of two speeches given in the European
Parliament. The revision focus is on domain language changes, which in this case

specifically mean terminology, normal usage and correct referencing within the context of the business of the European Parliament. The subject of the speeches is the EU budget, for which the European parliament has responsibility. The two speakers sit on Parliament's Committee on Budgets and are experts in this field. The reviser in this case actually works in the European parliament and can pick up on domain language errors, whilst (hopefully) remaining confident that the translator has linguistic expertise and domain expertise, though possibly in the latter case less than him/herself. The changes illustrated here made are necessary, rather than whimsical or subjective, and provide extremely beneficial feedback to the translator, especially as some of the points are subtle. To take just one example: the second change concerns the EU's Stability and Growth Pact, which does not sit comfortably with a possessive pronoun, i.e. it is *the* Stability and growth Pact.

8.2 Domain-focused revision (scenario 4)

APPENDIX 4 shows an example of a revision of a translated Finnish text which is a medical report. The revision focus is on domain language changes, but in this case the reviser cannot read the SL. The translator (myself) has a fair amount of domain-related expertise, in the form of translational experience (or, obviously, the translation could or should not have been attempted at all!), but a final check is made for what in the reviser's brief (given by myself) was referred to as professional references, professional readability and appropriate terminology. By 'professional references' was meant here specifically how medical professionals might refer to items such as departments, doctors, patients (e.g. 'man' vs. 'male') and choice of term in context, as distinct from terminology (e.g.

'drug/medicine/medication'). This category would also include the rendition of Latin terms, which can be a controversial issue in the field of medical translation.

 The reviser in this case has no medical qualification but has been a freelance translator since 1996. Before that she was Head of Translations at the Wellcome Foundation Ltd before it merged with Glaxo, a well-known pharmaceutical company. Previously she had worked in-house for translation agencies specialising in medical translation.

Eleven changes with comments are made by the reviser in the text. Four are terminological changes. Five cover the areas of professional, as opposed to lay, readability and professional referencing. Two, I would argue, are unnecessary, as they pertain to style (changing 'wasn't' to 'was not', and changing 'symptoms in the limbs' to 'limb symptoms'), especially - and this is significant here - since the ST is written in note form and with little attention to good style, something which the reviser cannot know. However, there is one change owing to register (elimination of the word 'either' which the reviser suggests lowers the register), which may well be valid, although this is probably a subjective opinion on both the part of the reviser and the translator. Interestingly, there is also a comment on Latin usage.

Chapter 9 REVISER'S BRIEF

Mossop (pp. 84-86) discusses the notion of the client's brief that governs the work of the translator of a text and its revision. What he does not discuss separately, however, is the brief to the reviser as a set of instructions separate from that given the translator. Künzli also raises the point (2005 p. 40) that revisers often receive the same brief as the translator, but do not know to what extent they can have confidence in the translator's knowledge of the subject-matter. It is, moreover, unlikely or relatively unusual for the reviser to have personal contact with the translator, and he/she will therefore be working in the dark with regard to that translator's expertise. As I have already pointed out (Chapter 3 [under 'a']), to some extent it may be taken for granted that the translator is reliable in terms of linguistic expertise, hopefully to obviate the temptation to treat the exercise as an examination of the translator's abilities (which it clearly is not if the context is a truly professional one) and make unnecessary or subjective changes (contentious revision). Künzli also suggests (forthcoming b, p. 15) that hyper-revision may be the result of "an absence of well-structured revision procedures", one of which, one assumes, is a reviser's task description.

The matter of reviser's brief can be mapped onto the scenarios I have proposed in Chapter 4, both in terms of the scope of the parameters of revision that would need to be addressed and the extent to which the reviser can trust in the translator's expertise. To recap on one example: if the party commissioning the translation revision were to refer to the situation outlined in scenario 3 (translator: linguistic expert; reviser: domain expert), the reviser could focus on terminology and specialist language, and give less attention to

linguistic revision, unless there were obvious slips, in which case he/she could highlight these when returning the work.

The question of reviser's brief is also associated with two factors that have been alluded to earlier on, but which now call for brief discussion. These are the socio-economic aspects of time and money. In the day-to-day world of commercial translation, these are of paramount importance. Every translation project has a deadline and a price, and these need to be taken into account when engaging a translator and a reviser (at least an external one). The general lack of a consistent approach to organising the revision of translation is a problem that is only compounded by issues of time and money. The attitude is very often that any translation can be checked by any other translator working in the same language pair and in the same direction. As, frequently, little or no account is taken of the host of complicating factors that translation revision may entail, many of which I have touched on in this essay, the timeframe and pricing of a revision project are hard to predict, and, if they are enforced beforehand, may render it impracticable. Again, establishing the relevant translator-reviser scenario (either one of the six I have highlighted or possibly another) with reference to the hierarchy of expertise with regard to translator and reviser might serve to facilitate the procedure for establishing how much time there may be for checking a translation, and, given that the usual practice in the industry is to charge by the hour, how much it is going to cost.

Chapter 10 CONCLUSION

This essay has dealt with the issue of the revision of a translation by an (external) reviser with a view to establishing a more focused strategy, mainly on the part of the translation revision commissioner, to go some way towards eliminating some of the problems of translation revision that arise where there is no consistent or well structured approach to the task. There are other forms of translation revision that have not been mentioned here. One is back-translation, where instead of having a translation checked *per se*, a translator actually translates the translation back 'unseen', whereupon the translation commissioner, the agency or the end client, checks to see whether the content of the back-translation tallies with that of the translation, on the one hand, and the original text, on the other. This is a very common practice in, for example, the world of medical and pharmaceutical translations, and patient questionnaires especially, but it is fraught with potential linguistic problems. The subject of back-translation would be an extremely interesting and useful area of research, and, indeed, perhaps it is, but it lies outside the scope of this particular survey. Another form of translation revision is post-editing (mentioned in Chapter 1) which has to do with machine translation. A translation document is produced with the aid of a machine translation tool and is then revised by a human being. Again, this controversial area does not concern us here.

What has not been discussed in any detail in this study either (although it is touched on briefly in Chapter 4, scenario 3) is the inter-relational dynamics that should obtain between the actors involved in a translation project: the work commissioner/end client, translator, and reviser. Instead of working in isolation, as is too often the case,

cooperation is enhanced through the use of such computer software tools as the Word Comments and Markup facility ('track changes'), which enables parties to feedback to one another. This sort of feedback would go a long way towards enhancing the quality of translation revision. This is also linked to the notion of justifying changes made to the translation (see Chapter 5).

The focused strategy I refer to above is that of acknowledging and establishing the hierarchy of linguistic and domain-related expertise, based on qualifications and (translational) experience, in the translator-reviser relationship when commissioning the actors needed for a given translation cum translation revision project. This could be done with reference to a set of scenarios that describe various translational systems (I have proposed six but there are probably more), based on which a reviser's brief might be drawn up. This brief would consist of a) the tasks the reviser should concentrate on, and b) instructions that bring to the reviser's attention the notions of under-, hyper- and over-revision and the possible need to justify changes making use of a software 'track changes' tool of some sort.

There are a few signs that the concept of revision is being addressed on a more serious and consistent basis. Furthermore, in my own day-to-day work I am beginning to exploit some of the strategies examined in this study, both in terms of negotiating translation revision agreements (which embrace both academic and socio-economic considerations) with work providers, and as an aid to the revision process itself.

APPENDIX I: Study 1: Example of one instance of revision in a draft translation (highlighted in red)

Original Finnish text:

Reino Paasilinna, *PSE-ryhmän puolesta***.** **–** Arvoisa puhemies, arvoisat kollegat, haluan onnitella kollega Mechtild Rothea erinomaisesta mietinnöstä. Hän on tehnyt paljon hyvää työtä ja tuemme häntä ryhmässäni voimakkaasti.

My draft translation:

Reino Paasilinna, *on behalf of the PSE Group*. **–** *(FI)* Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to congratulate my colleague, Mrs Mechtild Rothe, on an excellent report. She has done much excellent work and we in our group strongly support her.

Revised version:

Reino Paasilinna, *on behalf of the PSE Group*. **–** *(FI)* Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to congratulate my colleague, Mrs Mechtild Rothe, on an excellent report. She has done much good work and we in our group strongly support her.

In your opinion is the change (choose one from the three):

1. *necessary?*
2. *unnecessary?*
3. *unnecessary and unacceptable? (introduces an error).*

Can you give reasons for your decision?

APPENDIX 2: Study 21: Example of one instance of revision in a draft translation (highlighted in red)

Original Finnish text:

Onneksi Yhdysvalloista kuuluu myös järjen ääniä. Monet osavaltiot ovat päättäneet ryhtyä toimiin. Koilliset osavaltiot ovat aloittamassa hiilidioksidin päästökauppaa ja haluavat mukaan Euroopan unionin päästökauppaan. Joukko pormestareita on sitoutunut paikallistason toimiin, ja he yrittävät saada mukaan 141 kaupunkia eli saman määrän kaupunkeja kuin on Kioton ratifioineita maita. Mutta koska pelkkä järkipuhe ei näytä riittävän USA:n saamiseksi kantamaan globaalia vastuutaan, WTO:n sääntöjen mahdollistamia toimia tulisi vakavasti harkita.

My draft translation:

Fortunately, the voice of reason is also being heard in the United States. Many states there have decided to take action. The north-eastern states are starting to engage in carbon dioxide emissions trading, and want to be part of the European Union emissions trading scheme. A number of city mayors have committed themselves to action at local level, and they are seeking the involvement of 141 cities, which is the same as the number of countries that have ratified Kyoto. Since, however, mere reason does not appear to be enough to persuade the United States to bear global responsibility, the kind of action possible under WTO rules should be seriously considered.

Revised version:

Fortunately, the voice of reason is also being heard in the United States. Many states there have decided to take action. The north-eastern states are starting to engage in carbon dioxide emissions trading, and want to be part of the European Union emissions trading scheme. A number of city mayors have committed themselves to action at local level, and they are seeking the involvement of 141 cities, which is the same as the number of countries that have ratified Kyoto. Since, however, mere reason does not appear to be enough to persuade the United States to bear global responsibility, the kind of action possible under WTO rules ought to be seriously considered.

In your opinion is the change (choose one from the four):

1. *necessary?*
2. *unnecessary?*
3. *unnecessary and unacceptable? (introduces an error)*

Can you give reasons for your decision?

APPENDIX 3: Example of domain-focused revision 1: focus on European Parliament terminology

Original Finnish text:

Arvoisa puhemies, arvoisa komission jäsen, ensinnäkin haluan onnitella budjettiesittelijöitä Göran Färmiä ja Per Stenmarckia erinomaisesta työskentelystä, samoin budjettivaliokunnan puheenjohtajaa Terence Wynniä hyvästä valiokunnan johtamisesta. Haluan myös kiittää Tanskan puheenjohtajia neuvostossa hyvästä yhteistyöstä ja komission jäsen Michaela Schreyeriä hyvästä toiminnasta.

Euroopan unionin ensi vuoden budjetti on kurinalainen. Menojen kasvu on alle inflaatiokehityksen, eli vain 1,9 prosenttia. Tämä on Euroopan parlamentin huomattava tuki jäsenvaltioiden pyrkimyksille saattaa kansalliset talousarviot tasapainoon. Se osoittaa EU:n vastuuta jäsenvaltioiden pyrkiessä täyttämään kasvu- ja vakaussopimuksen vaatimukset.

Ensi vuoden budjetin loppusumma on jäsenvaltioiden bruttokansantuotteeseen verrattuna ennätyksellisen alhainen. Ryhmässämme esiintyy huolestuneisuutta maksumäärärahojen alhaisesta tasosta. Pelätään, että maksumäärärahat eivät vastaa aikaisemmin tehtyjä sitoumuksia ja että sen johdosta syntyy uusia RALeja, eli kasautuu maksuunpanemattomia määrärahoja. Pelätään, että uuden säännön eli niin sanotun *sunset clausen* johdosta jäsenvaltiot menettävät niille kuuluvia maksuja. Ongelma on ollut lähinnä teoreettinen, kun komissio ei ole pannut maksatukseen budjetin määrärahoja ja kun jäsenvaltioille on voitu palauttaa miljardeja euroja käyttämättä jääneitä omia varoja eli jäsenmaksuja. Jos maksumäärärahat eivät ensi vuonna vastaa maksatusten tarvetta, *sunset clause* aiheuttaa uudenlaisen ongelman.

Ryhmämme haluaa kiinnittää huomion toimielinten väliseen sopimukseen, jonka edellinen parlamentti teki meidän puolestamme. Varsinkin otsakkeiden 3 ja 4 alle on syntynyt sellaisia uusia tarpeita, joita ei voida kattaa nykyisillä enimmäismäärillä. Kukaan ei osannut ennakoida toukokuussa 1999 Jugoslavian tai Afganistanin jälleenrakennustarvetta tilanteessa, jossa EU näyttää sitoutuneen lievittämään taloudellisesti USA:n hyökkäyspolitiikan seurauksia. Näyttää olevan sellainen työnjako, että USA hyökkää ja EU maksaa sodan jälkisiivouksen ja jälleenrakentamisen. Uusi Irakin sota saattaa lisätä paineita ensi vuoden ulkomaanapuun, joten siinä otsakkeessa ei ole marginaaleja uusien toimien käynnistämiseen.

Ryhmämme mielestä olisi arvioitava uudelleen toimielinten välisen sopimuksen ylärajoja. Ollaanhan lisäämässä typerän kasvu- ja vakaussopimuksenkin joustavuutta. Budjetissa on erityinen joustoinstrumentti, mutta näyttää siltä, että neuvosto väärinkäyttää sitä joustojen sijasta ennakoitavissa olleisiin maksuihin. Marokon kalastussopimuksen raukeaminen ei ollut ennalta-arvaamaton meno, johon todella tarvittiin joustoinstrumenttia. Espanjan ja Portugalin kalastuslaivastojen romuttaminen olisi ensi vuonna pitänyt rahoittaa kokonaan muulla tavalla kuin osittain joustoinstrumentilla.

Ryhmämme pitää positiivisena, että on aloitettu päämäärätietoinen keskustelu elävien teuraseläinten kuljetusten vähentämisestä ja asetettu kyseenalaiseksi eläinten kohtelu Hollannin Rijswijkissä sijaitsevassa eläinten tutkimuskeskuksessa. Sen sijaan olemme kriittisiä sen suhteen, että on avattu pää yhteisen ulko- ja turvallisuuspolitiikan rahoittamiselle EU:n budjetista. Tällä kerralla rahoitetaan siviilikriisinhallintaa, seuraavalla kerralla ehkä sotaa. Minulle ei ole budjetin käsittelyn aikana tullut selväksi, miten aiotaan järjestää neuvoston toimivallassa olevien varojen tilintarkastus ja miten ja kenelle niiden varojen käytöstä myönnetään vastuuvapaus. Ehkäpä komission jäsen tietää.

My translation into English with areas for change highlighted in red:

Mr President, Commissioner, firstly, I should like to congratulate the rapporteurs for the budget, Göran Färm and Per Stenmarck, for their excellent work, as well as Terence Wynn, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, for his leadership on that committee. I also want to thank Denmark's chairmen in the Council for their cooperation, which was excellent, and Commissioner Michaele Schreyer for her excellent input.

Next year's European Union budget is a disciplined budget. The increase in expenditure is below inflation, at just 1.9%. This represents an outstanding gesture of support by the European Parliament to help Member States balance their national budgets. It also demonstrates responsibility on the part of the EU, while Member States try to meet the requirements of its Stability and Growth Pact.

The grand total for next year's budget compared to Member States' GNP is a record low. Our group is worried about the low level of payment appropriations. It is feared they do not correspond to the commitments made earlier and that there will be new RALs as a result, which is to say, unpaid appropriations will pile up. It is feared that, on account of a new rule, a 'sunset clause', Member States will lose the payments they are due. The problem has been mainly only theoretical while the Commission has not forwarded appropriations in the budget for payment and while Member States have been able to get back billions of euros of unused own resources, or contributions. If next year payment appropriations do not meet payment needs, the sunset clause will cause a new kind of problem.

Our group would like to focus on the interinstitutional agreement the previous Parliament made on our behalf. New needs have come into being, especially under headings 3 and 4, which cannot be covered by the current maximum amounts. Nobody could have

predicted in May 1999 that there would be a need for reconstruction in Yugoslavia and Afghanistan in a situation in which the EU seems to have committed itself to the economic alleviation of the consequences of a US policy of aggression. The share of responsibility would seem to be one where the USA does the attacking and the EU pays for the clean-up operation and reconstruction in the aftermath of war. A new Iraq war might increase the pressure on next year's foreign aid programme, so there are no margins under that heading for initiating new actions.

In the opinion of our group the ceilings in the interinstitutional agreement should be re-estimated. Let us please make this stupid Stability and Growth Pact more flexible. The budget has a special flexible instrument, but it would appear that the Council misuses it for payments that can be predicted instead. The failure of the Moroccan fishing agreement was not an unforeseeable piece of expenditure for which the flexible instrument was really needed. The breaking-up of the Spanish and Portuguese fishing fleets should have been totally financed next year in some way other than partially by means of the flexible instrument.

Our group thinks a positive step has been taken in commencing serious discussions about reducing the transportation of live animals for slaughter and calling into question the treatment of animals in the primate research centre at Rijswijk in Holland. We are, however, critical of the fact that the ball has been set rolling for the EU budget to be used to finance the common foreign and security policy. This time round we will be financing civil crisis management: next time it will perhaps be war. It has not become clear to me during the debate on the budget how it is intended to organise the auditing of funds that are the Council's responsibility nor how nor to whom discharge is to be granted in respect of the use of these funds. Perhaps the Commissioner knows.

My translation with revisions highlighted in red:

Mr President, Commissioner, firstly, I should like to congratulate the rapporteurs for the budget, Göran Färm and Per Stenmarck, for their excellent work, as well as Terence Wynn, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, for his leadership on that committee. I also want to thank Denmark's Presidents of the Council for their cooperation, which was excellent, and Commissioner Michaele Schreyer for her excellent input.

Next year's European Union budget is a disciplined budget. The increase in expenditure is below inflation, at just 1.9%. This represents an outstanding gesture of support by the European Parliament to help Member States balance their national budgets. It also demonstrates responsibility on the part of the EU, while Member States try to meet the requirements of the Stability and Growth Pact.

The grand total for next year's budget compared to Member States' GDP is a record low. Our group is worried about the low level of payment appropriations. It is feared they do not correspond to the commitments made earlier and that there will be new RALs as a result, which is to say, unpaid appropriations will pile up. It is feared that, on account of a new rule, a 'sunset clause', Member States will lose the payments they are due. The problem has been mainly only theoretical while the Commission has not forwarded appropriations in the budget for payment and while Member States have been able to get back billions of euros of unused own resources, or contributions. If next year payment appropriations do not meet payment needs, the sunset clause will cause a new kind of problem.

Our group would like to focus on the interinstitutional agreement the previous Parliament made on our behalf. New needs have come into being, especially under headings 3 and 4, which cannot be covered by the current maximum amounts. Nobody could have predicted in May 1999 that there would be a need for reconstruction in Yugoslavia and Afghanistan in a situation in which the EU seems to have committed itself to the economic alleviation of the consequences of a US policy of aggression. The division of labour would seem to be one where the USA does the attacking and the EU pays for the clean-up operation and reconstruction in the aftermath of war. A new Iraq war might increase the pressure on next year's foreign aid programme, so there are no margins under that heading for initiating new actions.

In the opinion of our group the ceilings in the interinstitutional agreement should be re-estimated. Let us please make this stupid Stability and Growth Pact more flexible. The budget has a special flexibility instrument, but it would appear that the Council misuses it for payments that can be predicted instead. The failure of the Moroccan fishing agreement was not an unforeseeable piece of expenditure for which the flexibility instrument was really needed. The breaking-up of the Spanish and Portuguese fishing fleets should have been totally financed next year in some way other than partially by means of the flexibility instrument.

Our group thinks a positive step has been taken in commencing serious discussions about reducing the transportation of live animals for slaughter and calling into question the treatment of animals in the primate research centre at Rijswijk in Holland. We are, however, critical of the fact that the ball has been set rolling for the EU budget to be used to finance the common foreign and security policy. This time round we will be financing civil crisis management: next time it will perhaps be war. It has not become clear to me during the budget procedure how it is intended to organise the auditing of funds that are the Council's responsibility nor how nor to whom discharge is to be granted in respect of the use of these funds. Perhaps the Commissioner knows.

APPENDIX 4: Example of domain-focused revision 2: focus on medical terminology, etc. (No original text available to the reviser)

Date
Outpatients

8.6.06
2106

Heading

8.6.2006

Internal Medicine ward 6

Request

Text (treatment phases are separated from one another with a line)

Haemodialysis patient. Operated on for ca recti on 2 June and at the time stoma performed. Hemiparesis in the 80s. Now two days ago lost grip strength in the left hand, and right corner of the mouth started to curl down. General condition fine. CT head scan requested. Consultation with neurologist requested owing to apparent cerebral chemistry.

Mika Katarinen, assistant (illeg.)

8.6.2006
WARD 6

Report by neurologist after consultation

Requested consultation by neurologist owing to symptoms of hemiparesis on left side.

This is a 70-year-old male, whose earlier medical history shows that type II diabetes was diagnosed in 1999, as well as serious nephropathy and retinopathy. Hypertension. Cardiac infarction in 2001. Owing to uraemia, dialysis treatment started five years ago three times a week. Vitrectomy performed on left eye previously, with membranectomy and endolaser treatment in 2000. Cataract operation in 2005 and laser treatment on right eye too. Also note that in February 2006 a low anterior resection carried out owing to carcinoma of the rectum. Under intensive observation in surgery. No previous visit to neurology.

Home medications:
Aurora trial medication x 1 / day, Etalpha 1 microgram x 1, Kalcipos 500 mg x 1, NeoRecommon 4000 I.U. x 2 / week. Norvasc 5 mg x 1, Primaspan 100 mg x 1, Renal Multivita 1 x 1.

During the last couple of weeks patient says he has been feeling dizzy and tending to topple over to the left occasionally. No vomiting or symptoms in the limbs associated with No feelings of nausea for a long time. On 6 June 2006 when he woke up he noticed that his left hand wasn't functioning properly and had lost its grip strength. Left corner of mouth was also curling downwards. Slight weakness and awkwardness in left hand. No headache at the time. No problems swallowing either and no sight impairment. Situation since 6 June 2006 has not changed in any way. Lives permanently in service apartment block. There he has been independently mobile.

Status examination showed patient was orientated; speech slightly dysarthric. Left corner of mouth droopy. Tongue and uvula in median line. Swallow reflex appeared normal. Patient's upper teeth missing. Only a few teeth in lower jaw. Eye movements normal. Facial sensory functions symmetrical. No stiffness in neck. No grip strength in left hand, but some slight activity in the elbow and shoulder. No movement in the wrist

or fingers. But in the elbow there is successful flexion and extension. Sensory function in upper arms symmetrical. Tendon reflexes weak/symmetrical.

Poor levels of strength throughout left leg compared to right leg. However, leg movements clearly able to overcome gravity. Patellar reflex dull either side. Babinski -/-. Sensory functions in legs symmetrical. Heel - knee test revealed nothing remarkable. Finger-to-nose test and test for DDK were unsuccessful due to symptoms of paralysis. In Romberg test a little unsure of himself, but did not topple over. Could walk, subjective weakness in left leg. Cardiac auscultation revealed uneven rhythm; nothing remarkable heard in lungs.

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