

Translation Choices of Embedded Clauses: A Systemic Functional Linguistics Perspective

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ABSTRACT

Translation is the product of a decision-making process during which the translator constantly decides whether s/he wants to choose the same linguistic choice made in the Source Text or to make a translation shift by making a different linguistic choice. In this process, the translator considers a number of contextual variables and typological differences between the two languages concerned. Some of the shifts are made nearly automatically; others made with much consideration and hesitation. One of those shifts which may make translators stop and consider a few options is that associated with nominal groups modified by embedded clauses, which are referred to as defining relative clauses in traditional grammar. It is particularly so when

translation takes place between languages in which the position of these embedded clauses is different, as in the case of English and Chinese (Fang and Wu 2009). This study sets out to explore how this challenging issue has been addressed in translated texts of different languages using the French novel *Le Petit Prince* (*The Little Prince*) by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry as the ST and its translations in English, Chinese and Korean, drawing on Systemic Functional Linguistics as its theoretical framework.

KEYWORDS

translation choices, translation shifts, embedded clauses, nominal group, Systemic Functional Linguistics

1. Introduction

Translation can be viewed as the product of a decision-making process during which the translator constantly decides whether s/he chooses to re-create a Target Text (TT) using lexical and grammatical choices equivalent to those made in the Source Text (ST) or to make “translation shifts”, which means “departures from formal correspondence in the process of going from SL [Source Language] to TL [Target Language]” (Catford 1965: 73). In this process, the translator considers a number of contextual variables and typological differences between the two languages concerned. Some of the translation shifts may be made nearly automatically; others with much consideration and hesitation.

One of those shifts which may make translators stop and consider a few options is that associated with nominal groups that include embedded clauses, which are referred to as defining relative clauses in traditional grammar. It is particularly so when translation takes place between languages in which the position of these embedded clauses is different. In some languages, the embedded clause comes

before the Head noun (e.g. Chinese, Korean) while in others it comes after the Head noun (e.g. French, English). This is a persistently challenging issue, for example, for many experienced English-Chinese translators, as stated in Fang and Wu (2009), and therefore a number of translation studies have been carried out to suggest techniques to address the issue (e.g. Lin 1991; Shan 1990; Zhou 2003 cited in Fang and Wu 2009).

However, Fang and Wu (2009: 2) point out that “little research has been done on the parameters that may determine the translator’s decision to make such a translation shift”. To address the gap, they analysed the translation shifts in English Head nouns modified by embedded clauses translated into Chinese in legal documents and public speeches given by politicians. They found out that text type, logico-semantic relations between the Head noun and the embedded clause, and the complexity of the embedded clause are major parameters that have “a bearing on the probability of translation shift” (2009: 18). This is a substantial finding that shows that specific micro linguistic choices in translation are often made with the consideration of macro contexts such as text type.

We, however, still had a few pressing questions related to the linguistic challenges such as:

- What are the possible linguistic choices in translating embedded clauses that modify Head nouns?
- What impact does each choice have on the domain of meaning?
- How is this issue addressed across different languages?

This study sets out to explore the questions listed above using the French novel *Le Petit Prince* (*The Little Prince*) by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry as the ST and its published translations in English, Chinese and Korean. The choice of the ST was intentional. First of all,

a novel such as *The Little Prince* usually requires much freer and covert translation choices (House 1977/1997) compared to other text types such as expounding (e.g. textbooks) or enabling (e.g. rules and regulations). Therefore it is an ideal text type in which to observe a wide variety of translation choices. Secondly, we wanted to focus on elaborating embedded clauses as this is the most predominant type of embedded clause in all text types but has not been addressed in detail in Fang and Wu (2009). In our ST, the majority of the embedded clauses have the relation of elaborating, as discussed in Section 4.1 below. Thirdly, we wanted to focus on embedded clauses which have rather simple grammatical structures, as Fang and Wu (2009) already determined that the structural complexity of embedded clauses is one of the major factors that may influence translators' decisions. The ST includes simple embedded clauses in most cases because its target readers include both young and mature readers. Fourthly, *The Little Prince* is well-known in many countries around the world, having been translated into a great number of different languages. It was therefore chosen as an appropriate text to use as a common reference point from which to observe the translation shifts that occur in the three languages that are native languages of Kim (Korean), Heffernan (English) and Jing (Chinese).

In the following sections, we will introduce the theoretical framework underlying this study, discuss methodological issues, describe varied types of translation shifts systemically and then conclude with a summary of major findings and suggestions for further studies.

2. Theoretical framework

The primary theoretical framework of this study is Systemic

Functional Linguistics (SFL). SFL is a linguistic theory that views language as a meaning-making resource within the social and cultural contexts. It has provided a theoretical framework for a number of language-related disciplines including translation studies (see Kim 2009 for details). It categorises meaning into metafunctional modes: ideational (logical and experiential), interpersonal and textual (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014). The linguistic issue investigated in the study largely belongs to the logical metafunction, which is concerned with logico-semantic relations created between clauses within a clause complex, but its specific focus is on the semantic relations between Head nouns and their modifying embedded clauses at group rank.

In SFL, the clause is regarded as the highest unit of analysis because multi-metafunctional meanings are realised at clause rank. A clause consists of groups and phrases that realise different functions within the clause (e.g. Process, Participant, Circumstance). A group or phrase consists of words, which consist of letters. This concept of rank scale in SFL is presented in Figure 1:

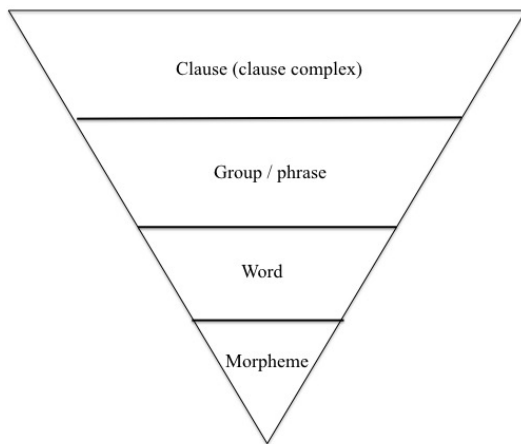


Figure 1. Rank scale in language (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014: 50)

In terms of the logical metafunction, the semantic relations between clauses mirror the relations between Head nouns and embedded clauses at group rank. This paper is concerned with the relations at group rank only in the French ST.

2.1. Logico-semantic relations at clause rank

When clauses are linked together to form a clause complex, they enter into a logico-semantic relation. This relation may be implicit or it may be expressed explicitly through the use of conjunctions. In SFL, such relations are largely categorised into two types of logico-semantic relationships: projection and expansion¹. A projection relation is created when a mental or verbal clause introduces an idea or locution in another clause. Projected clauses represent the message of the original speaker and not the speaker of the clause complex itself. Projection can be further divided into locution and idea: locution projects what is said and idea projects what is thought or sensed.

An expansion relation, on the other hand, is created when experiences are linked together in a clause complex. Expansion can be further divided into extension, enhancement and elaboration. Extension refers to the extending of meaning by adding something new to it, varying it or alternating it. In enhancement, one clause enhances the meaning of another by qualifying it with the introduction of circumstantial information such as time, place, cause, condition, reason, manner and purpose. Elaboration differs somewhat from the other two types of expansion in that the elaborating clause does not introduce a new element, but rather further elaborates upon the meaning of another clause. More specifically, it specifies, explains, describes, restates or clarifies an element contained within the

elaborated clause or the entire clause itself (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014: 461).

2.2. Logico-semantic relations at group rank

The same logico-semantic relations are created at group rank when a clause comes to function as a part of a group. This mechanism of rank shift is called embedding (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014: 491-503) and down-ranked clauses are called embedded clauses in SFL (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014: 127). When a Head noun is modified by an embedded clause, the logico-semantic relations operate between the embedded clause and the Head noun that it modifies. An embedded clause functions either as expansion or projection, just like the relations between ranking clauses. Under the category of expanding embedded clause, the most typical relation between a Head noun and an embedded clause is that of elaboration (Halliday and Matthiessen 2014: 494). In (1) below, the embedded clause *I have in the world* is functioning as a Postmodifier of the Head noun *friend* within the nominal group *the best friend*.

(1) He is the best **friend** [[I have in the world]].

The second type of embedded clause is extending as exemplified in (2). Halliday and Matthiessen explain that “The only sense of extension which produces embedded clauses is that of possession, introduced by whose, of which/which ... of or a ‘contact’ relative clause ending with of” (2014: 497).

(2) Dr Roger Allan helps **people** [[whose lives are blighted by disordered sleep]].

The last type of expanding embedded clause is enhancing. Here the relation between the embedded clause and the Head noun is a circumstantial one of time, place, manner, cause or condition. There are two types according to where this relationship is construed:

- a) Those where the circumstantial sense is located in the embedded clause itself (shown in (3) below).
- b) Those where it is located in the noun functioning as Head (shown in (4) below).

A projecting relation is formed when the embedded clause modifies the nominal group with a fact or locution projected by somebody as shown in (5) below.

(3) This is the room [[where I was born]].

(4) The reason [[why he was late]] is that the bus was running late.

(5) The fact [[that the moon orbits the earth]] is known to all.

3. Data and Methodology

3.1. Data

As mentioned in the introduction section, this study has chosen the French novel *Le Petit Prince* as the ST and its translations into English, Chinese and Korean as TTs. There are a number of translation versions in these languages. However, we randomly chose a version in each language among recently published translations available at the time of this study. The original French ST, the English translation by Katherine Woods and Korean translation by

Dong-Keun Kim were taken from a trilingual book published in Korea in 2015 by Cow & Bridge Co. The Chinese translation by Zhou Kexi was taken from a book published in Shanghai in 2009 by the Shanghai Translation Publishing House.

3.2. Methodology

The initial stage of this study involved identifying all of the embedded clauses modifying Head nouns in the French ST. Among the 27 chapters of the text, 21 chapters were found to contain such embedded clauses with a total number of 111 cases. After this, the corresponding clauses in each of the three TTs were extracted and analysed. The analysis of the TTs involved identifying what the Head noun with the embedded clause had been translated into in each of the languages concerned, including establishing whether or not a shift in logical meaning had taken place in the TT, and then assigning a code to it. In this section, we will discuss how the embedded clause modifies the Head noun in the languages concerned and some major methodological issues we had to deal with while conducting the data analysis.

3.2.1. French and English

In French and English, embedded clauses appear after the Head nouns as Postmodifiers and are commonly introduced by relative pronouns, such as *que*, *qui*, *dont* and *où* in French or *which*, *who*, *that*, *whose* and *where* in English:

- (6) La fleur [[que tu aimes]] n'est pas en danger.
The flower [[that you love]] is not in danger.

(7) Here is the most accurate **drawing** of him [[that I can do from memory]].

They may also appear directly after the Head nouns without the use of relative pronouns:

(8) Je te donnerai aussi une **corde** [[pour l'attacher pendant le jour]].
*I will give you also a **string** [[for tying him up during the day]].*

(9) I have **friends** [[to find]] and so many **things** [[to understand]].

While examining the French ST, we came across three main issues. The first issue is related to identifying when a past participle is simply functioning as an adjective and when it is functioning as an embedded clause. Both French and English past participles can be used as adjectives that function as Modifiers, but in French they appear after the Head noun as Postmodifiers. For example, the past participle *perdu*, 'lost' in *un enfant perdu*, 'a lost child' comes after the Head noun modifying *enfant*, 'child'. In such cases, we considered whether or not the past participle is associated with any Circumstances. We analysed the past participle as an adjective functioning as Modifier when it is not associated with any Circumstances and we analysed it as an embedded clause when it is associated with Circumstances as in (10) below. This is because it is difficult to argue that there are two distinct Processes unless each is associated with its own Circumstances.

(10) Il n'avait en rien l'apparence d'un **enfant** [[perdu au milieu du désert]].

*He didn't have the appearance at all of a **child** [[lost in the middle of the desert]].*

The second issue is related to identifying whether a relative pronoun is signalling the beginning of an embedded clause modifying a Head noun or functioning as a part of some other grammatical construction:

(11) *Qu'est-ce que tu fais là?*

What is it that you are doing there?

(12) *Il faut exiger de chacun [[ce que chacun peut donner]].*

One must require from each [[that which each can give]].

(13) *On fait [[ce que l'on veut]]...*

One does [[that which one wants]]...

In (11), *Qu'est-ce que tu fais là?* can be literally translated as 'What is it that you are doing there?'. It may appear at first glance based on this word-for-word analysis that *que tu fais là*, 'that you are doing there' is an embedded clause modifying *ce*, 'it'. However, after closer analysis, it is clear that *qu'est-ce que* is actually a non-polar interrogative and so it has no experiential function, but instead functions together as the interpersonal Theme (Caffarel 2006: 125 and 144). In (12) and (13), *ce que* functions together as a whole to form a relative pronoun, comparable to *what* in English, and so the entire element beginning with *ce que* forms an embedded clause functioning as Participant (Caffarel 2006: 50-51). Therefore, we did not analyse these kinds of grammatical constructions as embedded clauses modifying Head nouns and they were excluded from our analysis.

The last issue is distinguishing ranking elaborating clauses from embedded clauses. The comma is used as a graphological clue to help

with this distinction; a ranking elaborating clause is often preceded by a comma while an embedded clause is not. However, this clue seemed to be unreliable because there are a number of clauses that contain information that is not essential in specifying the Head noun and are therefore elaborating clauses but they are not marked by a comma. Similarly there are a number of clauses that contain information that is essential in specifying the Head noun and are therefore embedded clauses but they are marked by a comma. When dealing with this issue, we carefully considered the function of the clauses in question by establishing whether or not the information being provided about the Head noun is essential in identifying the Head noun or indicating its type, or if it is simply functioning as additional background information.

- (14) Les seules montagnes qu'il eût jamais connues étaient les trois volcans || qui lui arrivaient au genou.
The only mountains that he had ever known were the three volcanoes || which came up to his knee.

In the above example (14), the second clause is providing information about the three volcanoes and there is no comma, which seems to suggest that it is an embedded clause. However, when we considered the fact that these three volcanoes were already introduced and talked about earlier in the book, and that these are the only three volcanoes on the entire planet where the little prince lived, we realised that this information is not essential for defining which volcanoes but is actually background information providing yet another attribute of them. Hence, we analysed this clause as a ranking elaborating clause. Interestingly, the English translation of this clause complex, as seen in (15), includes a comma:

(15) The only mountains he had ever known were the three volcanoes, || which came up to his knee.

However, when a clause could still be analysed as either embedded or elaborating, we relied on the graphological clue to make a determination. There could be many reasons why the author of the ST decided to include a comma or not, for example for the sake of the rhythm and the writing style. However, an investigation of this issue is beyond the scope of this study.

3.2.2. Chinese and Korean

In Chinese, embedded clauses in most of the cases are marked by the particle 的 ‘*de*’ and are placed before the Head noun.

(16) 我发送[[运载旅客的]]列车。

Wǒ fāsòng [[yùnzài lǚkè de]] **lièchē**.

*I send off the **trains** [[that carry passengers]].*

The whole clause *yùnzài lǚkè*, ‘that carry passengers’, which appears before the Chinese particle *de* modifies the Head noun *lièchē* ‘trains’, which comes at the very end of the clause. However, in the Chinese TT, we found some cases where the embedded clause appears directly after the Head noun as a Postmodifier rather than in the typical position as a Premodifier (see Section 4.2).

While analysing the Chinese TT, we also came across a couple of issues in how we would analyse embedded clauses in Chinese. Firstly, when a single adjective comes before the Head noun, it was not clear if it is an adjective or an embedded clause because an adjective can be used as a verb to express a Process in Chinese. In such cases, we adopted the same principle that we outlined in Section 3.2.1 above for

analysing past participles that appear after Head nouns. In (17) below, for example, although *shǎn* literally means ‘to glitter’ and, *fā* literally means ‘to emit’, they form a four character phrase in this case *shǎnshǎn-fāliàng*, ‘glittering and shining’ which serves as a Premodifier for *xiǎo dōngxi* ‘small thing’.

(17) 不对，是闪闪发亮的小东西。

Bú duì, shì shǎnshǎn-fāliàng de xiǎo dōngxi.

Not right, is glittering small thing.

Secondly, it is not uncommon for a clause complex in Chinese to include multiple clauses without any conjunctive elements, which makes the semantic relations between them implicit or ambiguous in most cases. In fact, out of the 24 cases where the Head noun and embedded clause were translated into two separate clauses, only one case contained a conjunctive in the Chinese TT. For this reason, it was difficult to confidently distinguish whether the newly created logico-semantic relation was elaborating, extending or enhancing. For example, in (18) below, the second clause, *shàngmiàn zhùzhe yī gè liǎnhóng xiānsheng*, ‘on it lived a red-faced gentleman’, could be analysed in three different ways. Firstly, it could be analysed as extending by serving to simply add an additional experience alongside the previous one. Secondly, it could be argued that this clause has an elaborating function to give a characteristic of or more specific information about the planet. Lastly, it could also be analysed as enhancing by specifying the planet in terms of it being the location where the ‘red-faced gentleman’ lives.

(18) 我到过一个星球，上面住着一个脸红先生。

Wǒ dào guò yī gè xīngqiú, shàngmiàn zhùzhe yī gè liǎnhóng

xiānsheng.

I have been to a planet, on it lived a red-faced gentleman.

Reaching a conclusion about how to analyse the implicit logico-semantic relation between Chinese clauses that do not include conjunctives is beyond the scope of this study, and so whenever a Head noun and embedded clause were translated into two separate ranking clauses in the Chinese TT, we elected to not analyse any deeper. Further discussion and examples regarding this methodological issue can be seen in Section 4.3.2.2.

In Korean, when the Head noun is modified by an embedded clause, the modifying clause always comes before the Head noun and is marked with various linking suffixes such as *-han*, *-eul* and *-haneun*. As there is no phonological and grammatical difference between an elaborating embedded clause and an elaborating ranking clause, what could be semantically interpreted as elaborating is realised through an embedded clause with the logico-semantic meaning of elaboration as in (19) below:

(19) [[내가 좋아하는] 예람이가 왔다.

[[nae ga johaha-neun]] yerami-ga watda.

Yeram [[I like]] has come.

The embedded clause in (19) is an elaborating clause logico-semantically as it is not essential in identifying the Head noun but is additional optional information. However, we analysed it as an embedded clause because there is no phonological and grammatical evidence to indicate otherwise, as described in Kim et al (in preparation).

4. Discussion of Findings

4.1. Types of embedded clauses in the French ST

A total of 111 embedded clauses that modify Head nouns were found in the French ST. The majority of them have the relation of elaborating with their Head nouns (79%) but 21% of them have the relation of enhancing as shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Relations between Head nouns and their embedded clauses in the ST

Elaborating		Enhancing		Total
88	79%	23	21%	111

As briefly explained in Section 2.1, an elaborating clause within a clause complex adds further information about the preceding clause or the last element mentioned in the clause. However, when it is embedded in a nominal group, it acts to define the Head noun in the nominal group. For example, in (20) below, *un petit prince*, ‘a little prince’ is being further specified by the embedded clause *qui habitait une planète à peine plus grande que lui*, ‘who lived on a planet barely bigger than himself’. This example comes from Chapter IV where the narrator is talking about how he would have loved to begin the story with the opening line “Once upon a time, there was a little prince who...”. In this context, the embedded clause is clearly specifying which or what kind of little prince he is talking about.

(20) Il était une fois un petit prince [[qui habitait une planète à peine plus grande que lui]].

There was one time a little prince [[who lived on a planet barely bigger than himself]].

On the other hand, an enhancing embedded clause has a circumstantial relation with the Head noun. In (21) below, *une planète*, ‘a planet’ is also being further specified by the embedded clause *où il y a un Monsieur cramoisi*, ‘where there is a crimson man’. However, the difference with the elaborating example in (21) is that this embedded clause is not simply identifying which or what planet but is also specifying it as a place where ‘a crimson man’ is located.

(21) Je connais une planète [[où il y a un Monsieur cramoisi]].
I know a planet [[where there is a crimson man]].

There were no cases of projecting relations in our French ST. This is not surprising considering that it is common to refer to other people’s ideas and/or locutions in legal texts and speeches, but this may not be so in narratives like *The Little Prince* where the main focus is on what the main characters think and their ideas are expressed in their own speech.

4.2. Overview of translation shifts

Table 2 below shows the total numbers of translation shifts and no shifts out of 111 cases². Translation shifts refer to cases where the nominal group structure that includes a Head noun modified by an embedded clause changed into a different structure. The numbers and percentages are presented in each language translation.

Table 2. Total translation shifts by TT

	English		Chinese		Korean	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
No shift	82	74%	43	39%	73	66%
Shifts	29	26%	67	60%	38	34%
Omissions	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%

All the TTs include translation shifts but to different degrees. The Chinese TT shows 60% of translation shifts, which is the highest percentage of translation shifts out of the three TTs. This means on average six out of 10 embedded clauses modifying Head nouns were translated into a different structure in Chinese. This finding confirms the degree of challenge that this linguistic structure imposes to Chinese translators. The English TT shows the highest percentage of no translation shifts, which was anticipated to a large extent. However, considering the typological similarities between French and English, we found the rate of translation shifts at 26% to be higher than expected. The overall percentage of translation shifts in Korean, on the other hand, is much lower than one might expect. This is primarily because there is no phonological and grammatical clue for distinguishing elaborating clauses from embedded clauses in Korean. In this section, we will present a couple of examples of no translation shifts and then discuss translation shifts in detail in the rest of Section 4.

Below is an example of a Head noun modified by an embedded clause in the ST that involves no shift as the translations all maintain the embedded clause defining the same Head noun.

- (22) FR Le mouton [[que tu veux]] est dedans.
 *The **sheep** [[that you want]] is inside.*
- EN The sheep [[you asked for]] is inside.
- CH [[你要的]绵羊就在里面。
 [[Nǐ yào de] **miányáng** jiù zài lǐ miàn.
 *The **sheep** [[you want]] is inside.*
- KR [[네가 원하는] 양은 그 안에 있어
 Nega wonhaneun **yangeun** geu ane isseo
 *The **sheep** [[you want]] is inside*

As seen in (22), in both French and English, the embedded clause appears as a Postmodifier, with the French embedded clause being introduced with the relative pronoun *que*. On the other hand, the embedded clauses in Chinese and Korean both appear as Premodifiers connected to the Head noun by the conjunctive particle 的 *de* in Chinese and the conjunctive suffix 는 *neun* in Korean. In all three TTs, the function of the embedded clause is the same: to further define or specify which sheep is being referred to.

There was one phenomenon that we found surprising and interesting. While, as anticipated, all embedded clauses come after the Head noun in the English TT and before the Head noun in the Korean TT, there are four cases in the Chinese TT where the embedded clause comes after the Head noun (see Table 3 below) despite the fact that it is frequently postulated that embedded clauses in Chinese are placed before the Head nouns (e.g. Fang & Wu 2009).

Table 3. Embedded clauses before and after Head nouns

	English		Chinese		Korean	
Embedded clauses before Head noun	0	0%	39	91%	73	100%
Embedded clauses after Head noun	81	100%	4	9%	0	0%

All of these four cases where the embedded clause appears as a Postmodifier has a similar structure, with the nominal group acting as a Participant in a possessive relational clause realised by the Process 有, *yǒu*, ‘to have’.

(23) 我之所以有**权**[[让人服从]]

Wǒ zhīsuǒyǐ yǒu **quán** [[ràng rén fú cóng]]

*For this reason I have the **right** [[to ask people to obey]]*

In (23) above, the embedded clause *ràng rén fúcóng*, ‘to ask people to obey’ modifies the Head noun *quán*, ‘right’. Without this embedded clause, the meaning of the Head noun would be incomplete as it defines which specific right is being referred to. In addition, Chinese native speakers will not pause between the Head noun and embedded clause, which is a typical phonological feature of embedded clauses across languages. Therefore, we analysed this type of case as an embedded clause. This is certainly a very interesting phenomenon that is worthwhile investigating further from a typological perspective, as will be suggested in the conclusion.

4.3. Choices of translation shifts

Translation shifts have been observed in both types of embedded clauses of the ST. While the percentages of shifts that occurred in the translations of the elaborating embedded clauses of the ST were relatively modest in the English (25%) and Korean (30%) TTs, it is significantly high in the Chinese TT (58%). When it comes to the enhancing embedded clauses, the percentages of shifts are higher with 70% in Chinese, 52% in Korean and 30% in English as shown in the table below:

Table 4. Translation shifts by relation between Head noun and embedded clause in the ST

	French	English		Chinese		Korean	
Elaborating	88	29	25%	51	58%	26	30%
Enhancing	23	7	30%	16	70%	12	52%

We further analysed translation shifts and describe them in a system network of translation shifts of embedded clauses in Figure 2:

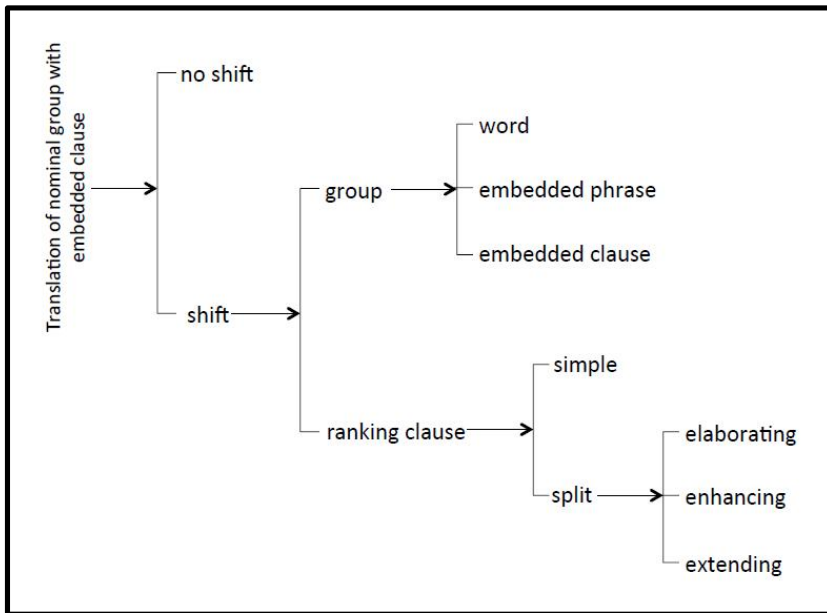


Figure 2. A system network of translation shifts of embedded clauses

First of all, all shifts are divided into shifts at the group level and shifts into ranking clauses. The former refers to a number of different cases where the Head nouns and modifying embedded clauses are still within the nominal groups but with different structures (e.g. embedded clauses translated into single adjectives, nominal groups or prepositional phrases). It also includes cases where the Head nouns are merged into the embedded clauses forming embedded clauses that function as Participants (see 4.3.1). Shifts into ranking clauses, on the other hand, include translation shifts where embedded clauses are translated, into either simple ranking clauses (see 4.3.2.1) or split ranking clauses (see 4.3.2.2). In such cases, the defining function of the embedded clauses is lost: the reader is no longer provided with information as to the identity or type of the Head noun. Table 5 below shows that in all three TTs, the percentages of translation shifts into

ranking clauses are higher than those at the group level. The Korean TT shows a strong tendency toward translation shifts into simple ranking clauses.

Table 5. Translation shifts at different ranks

		English		Chinese		Korean	
Groups		10	34%	16	24%	8	21%
Ranking clauses	Simple	11	38%	27	40%	27	71%
	Split	8	28%	24	36%	3	8%
Total		29	100%	67	100%	38	100%

Tables 6 and 7 below present the same information of Table 5 but by the type of embedded clauses of the ST:

Table 6. Translation shifts in ST elaborating embedded clauses

		English		Chinese		Korean	
Groups		6	27%	13	25%	7	27%
Ranking clauses	Simple	9	41%	21	41%	17	65%
	Split	7	32%	17	34%	2	8%
Total		22	100%	51	100%	26	100%

Table 7. Translation shifts in ST enhancing embedded clauses

		English		Chinese		Korean	
Groups		4	57%	3	19%	1	8%
Ranking clauses	Simple	2	29%	6	38%	10	83%
	Split	1	14%	7	44%	1	8%
Total		7	100%	16	100%	12	100%

Although there are some noticeable differences between the two

tables (e.g. much higher percentages of translation shifts at the group level in English (57%) and into simple ranking clauses in Korean (83%) in Table 7), it is not reasonable to generalise the findings because of limited data. In the following sections, we will discuss translation shifts of each category with examples and the impact they have on the domain of meaning as much as possible.

4.3.1 Shifts at group level

There are largely three places where translation shifts take place at the group level: word, group/phrase or embedded clause. In (24) below, the embedded clause *qui brillent*, ‘that shine’ in French was translated into a Premodifier in the form of the adjective ‘glittering’ in all of the translations.

- (24) FR Mais non, des petites choses [[qui brillent]].
But no, some little things [[that shine]].
- EN Oh no. Little glittering objects.
- CH 不对, 是闪闪发亮的小东西。
Bú duì, shì shǎnshǎn-fāliàng de xiǎo dōngxi.
Not right, is glittering small thing.
- KR 아니, 반짝 반짝하는 작은 것
Ani, banjjakbanjjakhaneun jageun geot
No, glittering little things

Such a shift tends to occur when the embedded clause is relatively simple consisting of one Process, for example, and it does not involve any significant shift of meaning as the defining function of the embedded clause still remains in the Premodifier.

However, when the ST’s Head noun and embedded clause are changed into an embedded clause modifying a different Head noun in

a TT, it may lead to a somewhat substantial shift of experiential meaning. In (25) below, for instance, while the Head noun in the French ST is *l'enfant*, 'the child' defined by the embedded clause *qu'a été autrefois cette grande personne*, 'that was another time this big person', the Head noun in the Chinese translation is shifted to *zhège dàrén*, 'this grown-up' modified by the enhancing embedded clause 'when he was still a child'.

(25) FR Je veux bien dédier ce livre à **l'enfant** [[qu'a été autrefois cette grande personne]].
I want very much to dedicate this book to the child [[that was another time this big person]].

CH 那我愿意把这本书献给[[还是孩子时的]]这个大人。
Nà wǒ yuànyì bǎ zhè běn shū xiàn gěi [[háishi háizi shí de]] zhège **dàrén**.
Then I would like to have this book dedicated to this grown-up [[when he was still a child]].

While the ST implies in a very subtle way that the author sees the child in this big person and that these two identities are not distinctly separate, the Chinese translation does not carry this subtle nuance but indicates that this grown-up and the child are separate identities existing at different points in time.

The Chinese TT of (26) below conveys a subtle but distinctively different experiential meaning. While the ST focuses more on how little water he had drunk over a period of eight days, the Chinese TT gives an impression that the water was just enough for a week but no more than that. However, when the embedded clause is translated into an adjective as in the English TT, it carries an experiential

meaning that is much closer to the ST.

- (26) FR J'avais à peine de l'eau à boire pour huit jours.
I had hardly any water to drink for eight days.
- EN I had scarcely enough drinking water to last a week.
- CH [[我带的]]水只够喝一星期了。
[[Wǒ dài de]] **shuǐ** zhǐ gòu hē yī xīngqī le.
*The **water** [[I brought]] was only enough to drink for a week.*

Similarly, in (27), the Head noun *serpent boa*, 'boa snake' in the ST is modified by an embedded clause *qui avalait un fauve*, 'that was eating a wild cat'. In the Korean TT, however, this original nominal group has become part of the embedded clause *boabaemi eotteon dongmureul jibeosamkiryeogo haneun*, 'where a boa snake is swallowing an animal', which modifies *jangmyeon*, 'scene' as the new Head noun in the clause.

- (27) FR Ca représentait un **serpent** boa [[qui avalait un fauve]].
*It depicted a **boa snake** [[that was eating a wild cat]].*
- KR [[보아뱀이 어떤 동물을 집어삼키려고 하는]] 장면이다.
[[Boabaemi eotteon dongmureul jibeosamkiryeogo haneun]] **jangmyeon**ida.
*(It) is a **scene** [[where a boa snake is swallowing an animal]].*

This translation shift involves a change of Process type from material to relational. A possible motivation for this shift may be

found in the fact that *Ca*, ‘it’ refers to an image and such an inanimate noun is hardly used as a Participant of a material Process such as ‘depict’ in Korean. As a consequence, the material clause was translated into a relational clause in Korean with a newly added Head noun, *jangmyeon*, ‘scene’.

There were two cases where both the Head noun and the embedded clause were retained but the Head noun was shifted to become a part of an embedded clause functioning as a Participant.

(28) FR *Ca représentait un **serpent** boa* [[qui digérait un éléphant]].
*It depicted a boa **snake*** [[that was digesting an elephant]].

CH 我画的是[[一条蟒蛇在消化大象]].
Wǒ huà de shì [[*yī tiáo mǎngshé zài xiāohuà dàxiàng*]].
What I drew is [[*a boa constrictor (is) swallowing an elephant*]].

As you can see from the example (28), it is clear that *un serpent boa*, ‘a boa snake’ is the nominal group in the French ST, which is modified by the embedded clause *qui digérait un éléphant*, ‘that was digesting an elephant’. However, in the Chinese translation, *yī tiáo mǎngshé zài xiāohuà dàxiàng*, ‘a boa constrictor (is) swallowing an elephant’ serves as a Participant with no nominal groups to modify. This shift also involves a change of Process type from material to relational, which is similar to what was discussed with the Korean translation example (27).

There were a couple of cases where the sense of the embedded clause formed the Head noun in the TT as in (29) below.

- (29) FR Pour d'autres [[qui sont savants]] elles sont des problèmes.
 For others [[who are scholars]] they are problems.
- CH 对另一些学者来说, 它们就是要讨论的问题。
 Dui ling yi xie xuezhe lai shuo, tamen jiù shì yào tāolùn de wèntí.
 For other scholars, they are questions need to be discussed.
- KR 천문학자한테는 풀어야할 숙제일 테지.
 Cheonmunhakjahanteneun pureoyahal sukjeil teji.
 For astrologists, they must be problems to solve.

In this example, the Head noun *d'autres* 'others' modified by the embedded clause *qui sont savants*, 'who are scholars' was translated into 'other scholars' in Chinese and 'astrologists' in Korean. Except the fact that those others who are scholars are indicated in the context, the Korean TT makes it explicit and does not involve any major change of experiential meaning.

4.3.2 Shifts into ranking clauses

This shift refers to the cases where the embedded clauses in the ST were translated into ranking clauses, resulting in a loss of the defining function of the embedded clauses. These cases are further divided into two categories, simple or split. In the case of simple ranking clauses, the sense of the Head noun and the embedded clause still remain in the TT but the embedded clause no longer defines the Head noun. Instead, they construe a new unit of meaning by forming a ranking clause. In the case of split ranking clauses, the sense of the Head noun and the embedded clause also remain in the

TT but the embedded clause is translated into a ranking clause, creating a semantic relation such as elaborating, enhancing or extending between it and the preceding clause, which still contains the sense of the ST Head noun.

Table 8. Translation shifts to ranking clause: 'simple' and 'split'

	English		Chinese		Korean	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Simple	11	58%	27	53%	27	90%
Split	8	42%	24	47%	3	10%
Total	19	100%	51	100%	30	100%

As Table 8 shows above, the percentages of simple and split cases vary across the languages. While the English and Chinese TTs show more or less even proportions, Korean shows a significantly high proportion of simple cases. In other words, in the Korean translation, when embedded clauses were translated into ranking clauses, the Head nouns and embedded clauses were merged into ranking clauses in all cases except three.

4.3.2.1 Simple ranking clauses

Some Head nouns modified by embedded clauses were translated into simple ranking clauses. This is the major type of translation shift in Korean (90%) where the Head noun and embedded clause were translated into a ranking clause, while it is less than 60% in the English and Chinese TTs. The Chinese and Korean TTs both have 27 instances of this type of shift. Interestingly, 20 out of these 27 instances in both of these TTs are from the same 20 cases in the ST.

There are two interesting observations worth mentioning. One is that shifts of this kind tend to take place in the translation of relational

clauses and they are mostly likely to result in change of meaning in one way or another. In (30), for example, we can see that the relational clause with the Process of 'are' in French includes the embedded clause *qu'il préfère*, 'that he prefers' which modifies the Head noun *les jeux*, 'the games'. In each of the TTs, however, the meaning contained in the ST embedded clause formed a mental or material Process taking on the Process role in the ranking clause, becoming 'love' in English, 'like' in Korean and 'like to play' in Chinese.

- (30) FR Quels sont les jeux [[qu'il préfère]]?
What are the games [[that he prefers]]?
- EN What games does he love best?
- CH 他喜欢玩哪些游戏?
Tā xihuan wán nǎ xiē yóuxì?
He likes to play which games?
- KR 어떤 놀이를 좋아하니?
Eotteon norireul johahani?
Which game do you like?

Similarly, in (31) the meaning of the Head noun *envie*, 'desire' and the embedded clause *de rire avec moi*, 'of laughing with me' in the ST were merged together to form the verbal group complex 'want to laugh' in all three TTs.

- (31) FR Tu auras **envie** [[de rire avec moi]].
*You will have **desire** [[of laughing with me]].*
- EN You will want to laugh with me.
- CH 你会想要跟我一起笑。
 Nǐ huì xiǎngyào gēn wǒ yìqǐ xiào.
You will want to laugh with me.
- KR 나랑 같이 웃고 싶어질 거야
 Narang gati usgo sipeojil geoya
You will want to laugh with me.

A similar example is presented in (32) but it involves a change of Theme. While *la planète*, ‘the planet’ is the Theme of the French ST, the little prince becomes the Theme in the Chinese and Korean TTs in the form of *Tā* and *Eorin wangja* respectively, as the nominal group *la planète*, ‘the planet’ is omitted altogether and the enhancing embedded clause *d’où il venait*, ‘from where he came’ is shifted to form the main experience realised by the clause in both of the TTs.

- (32) FR La planète [[d’où il venait]] est l’astéroïde B612.
*The **planet** [[from where he came]] is the asteroid B612.*
- CH 他来自B 612号小行星
 Tā láizì B 612 hào xiǎoxíngxīng.
He came from B 612 Asteroid.
- KR 어린 왕자는 소행성 B612에서 왔습니다.
 Eorin wangjaneun sohaengseong B612 eseo
 wasseupnida.
The little prince came from Asteroid B612.

Example (33) is very interesting as it involves a shift of

interpersonal meaning:

(33) FR Auriez-vous la bonté [[de penser à moi]]...
*Would you have the **goodness** to think of me...*

CH 麻烦您跟我
Máfan nín gēn wǒ...
Trouble you with me...

This clause is an interaction between the flower and the little prince where the flower begins to request the little prince to do something for her. The nominal group *la bonté*, ‘the goodness’ is being modified by the embedded clause *de penser à moi*, ‘to think of me’. The main function of this nominal group reflects a social distance between the flower and the little prince as well as the flower’s attitude towards the little prince and herself. This is particularly evident by the use of the formal second person pronoun *vous* and the use of inversion to form the question. Within the context of the story, this level of interpersonal meaning appears to indicate that the flower is very proud and that she thinks she is very beautiful. The Chinese TT presents an aspect of interpersonal meaning showing social distance in that the TT is expressing a polite request. However, it does not seem to contain any indication of the flower’s attitude towards herself and the little prince.

4.3.2.2 Split ranking clauses

As mentioned above, when Head nouns and embedded clauses are translated into separate ranking clauses within a clause complex, there is always a new semantic relation created between them. It was not too difficult to analyse newly created relations in the English and

Korean TTs because there are always grammatical clues such as conjunctions or conjunctive suffixes. However, we found it tricky and unreliable to do the same analysis with the Chinese TT because there were no explicit conjunctive clues except a comma in all but one of the 24 cases as discussed in Section 3.2.2. After making a number of attempts to analyse the shifts further, we decided not to do it in this study, as it requires a more systematic approach with much more data. Therefore, we will first discuss shifts found in the English and Korean TTs together and then shifts in the Chinese TT.

Tables 9 and 10 below show a likelihood of translating elaborating embedded clauses into elaborating ranking clauses and enhancing embedded clauses into enhancing ranking clauses when embedded clauses and the Head nouns they modify are translated into separate ranking clauses.

Table 9. Translation shifts in ST elaborating embedded clauses

		Group		Simple Ranking		Elaborating Ranking		Enhancing Ranking		Extending Ranking	
EN	22	6	27%	9	41%	6	27%	1	5%	0	0%
KR	26	7	27%	17	65%	1	4%	1	4%	0	0%

Table 10. Translation shifts in ST enhancing embedded clauses

		Group		Simple Ranking		Elaborating Ranking		Enhancing Ranking		Extending Ranking	
EN	7	4	57%	2	29%	0	0%	1	14%	0	0%
KR	12	1	8%	10	83%	0	0%	1	8%	0	0%

Let us examine examples in (34) below. The French elaborating embedded clause was translated into an elaborating ranking clause in English but it was translated into an enhancing ranking clause in Korean.

- (34) FR Et le petit prince eut un très joli éclat de rire [[qui m'irrita]].
*And the little prince had a very lovely **burst** of laughter*
[[which irritated me]].
- EN And the little prince broke into a lovely peal of
laughter, which irritated me very much.
- KR 어린 왕자가 떠뜨린 웃음보는 참으로 사랑스러웠으나 나는 좀
약이 올랐다.
Eorin wangjaga tteotteurin useumboneun chameuro
sarangseureowosseuna naneun jom yagi ollassda.
The laughter that the little prince broke into was lovely
but I was a bit irritated.

The clause *qui m'irrita*, 'which irritated me' is embedded in the nominal group to specify which kind of laughter. In the English TT, the embedded clause was translated into an elaborating clause by including a comma before the relative pronoun, further explaining the situation where the little prince laughing irritated the narrator rather than just specifying the type of laughter. However, in the Korean TT, *useumboneun*, 'laughter' became the Head noun modified by a new embedded clause *eorin wangjaga tteotteurin*, 'that the little prince broke into' and *qui m'irrita*, 'which irritated me' was translated into a separate ranking clause *naneun jom yagi ollassda*, 'I was a bit irritated' preceded by a linking suffix *나*, *na*, 'however'. In both cases, the translation shifts result in major logical meaning shifts in that the embedded clause lost the defining function. However the shift in the Korean TT seems to be more substantial as the semantic relation has changed from elaborating to enhancing.

The Chinese TT includes much more instances of translation shifts into ranking clauses as Table 8 above with 51 instances while the

English and Korean have 19 and 31 respectively. Table 11 shows that similar percentages of translation shifts into simple and split ranking clauses in the Chinese TT.

Table 11. Chinese translation shifts in ST elaborating and enhancing embedded clauses

		Group		Simple Ranking		Split Ranking	
Elaborating	51	13	25%	21	41%	17	33%
Enhancing	16	3	19%	6	37%	7	44%

Example (35) below shows a translation shift where the embedded clause became a ranking clause in the Chinese TT.

- (35) FR je te donnerai aussi une corde [[pour l'attacher pendant le jour]].
*I will also give you a **string** [[for tying him up during the day]].*
- CH 我还会给你一根绳子, 白天可以把它拴住。
 Wǒ hái huì gěi nǐ yī gēn shéngzi, báitiān kěyǐ bǎ tā shuānzhù.
I will also give you a string, you can tie it up during the day time.

In example (35) above, the ST *une corde* 'a string' is modified by the enhancing embedded clause, *pour l'attacher pendant le jour*, 'for tying him up during the day'. It was translated into two paratactic ranking clauses, which could be analysed as an enhancing or extending. In (36), the Head noun *La preuve* 'the proof' is modified by *que le petit prince a existé*, 'that the little prince existed'. This was also translated into two paratactic ranking clauses in Chinese as *xiǎo wángzǐ shì cúnzài de*, 'the little Prince exists' and *zhèngjù jiù shì tā*

nàme kě'ài, 'evidence is he so adorable', of which the relation can be interpreted as extending, enhancing or elaborating.

- (36) FR *La **preuve** [[que le petit prince a existé]] c'est qu'il était ravissant*
*The **proof** [[that the little prince existed]] it is that he was delightful*
- CH 小王子是存在的, 证据就是他那么可爱
Xiǎo wángzǐ shì cúnzài de, zhèngjù jiù shì tā nàme kě'ài
The little Prince exists, evidence is he so adorable

As discussed with Examples (35) and (36) above, it was clear that some Head nouns and embedded clauses were translated into paratactic ranking clauses in the Chinese TT but we decided not to present our interpretation of the relations because of the ambiguous or implicit nature of the relations.

5. Conclusion

In this study, we examined how the translators translated embedded clauses that modify Head nouns in the French novel *Le Petit Prince* into Chinese, English and Korean from a Systemic Functional perspective. We explored what choices were made when this grammatical construction was translated, presented the choices in a system network and described them one by one with examples. Furthermore, we analysed the impact these translation choices have on multi-dimensional meanings. In this conclusion, we will summarise major findings and make some suggestions for further studies.

We discovered that there are a wide variety of translation shifts across the different TTs. At the group level, various translation shifts took place. For example, the embedded clauses were translated into words, nominal groups or prepositional phrases. In such cases, their impact on the meaning domain was minimal. However, when the same structure of Head noun modified by embedded clause was maintained but had different Head nouns and/or different embedded clauses, their impact on the domain of meaning was substantial. In some cases, the Head noun and embedded clause formed one embedded clause functioning as Participant due to the translation shift in the Process type of the main clause. When embedded clauses were translated into ranking clauses, high percentages of them include the Head nouns within the same ranking clauses in all three TTs. However, there were cases where the Head nouns and embedded clauses were split up, with the embedded clauses forming separate ranking clauses in the TT with the sense of the ST Head nouns remaining in the preceding clauses, thereby creating new relations between them and the newly created ranking clauses. Such translation shifts largely impact on the domain of logical meaning.

Out of the three TTs, the Chinese TT showed the highest percentage of translation shifts with 67 cases out of 111 (60%) followed by the Korean TT with 38 cases (34%) and English TT with 29 cases (26%). These are interesting findings. On the one hand, it is not surprising that the English TT has the lowest percentage of translation shifts among the three but on the other hand 26% is higher than expected considering the fact that embedded clauses in English are realised in a very similar way to French, with both being realised in the form of a Postmodifier. The large difference between 60% of translation shifts in the Chinese TT and 34% in the Korean TT is also interesting as we expected initially to observe a similar rate of

translation shifts in the two TTs due to the fact that in both languages, an embedded clause is most commonly realised as a Premodifier.

There are a few findings that we also found very interesting and want to follow up. One of them is post-modifying embedded clauses in Chinese. As far as we know, no description or argument about this structure has been made so far. However, the four instances discussed in Section 4.2 seemed clearly different from ranking clauses phonologically and semantically. We postulate that it is used in a very few limited circumstances but it is worthwhile investigating further with a larger size of data.

We are also very keen to know more about how implicit links between ranking clauses in Chinese are analysed for research purposes and interpreted for translation purposes. We consulted a number of references that address how clauses are combined into clause complexes in Chinese but have not found any reference that address the issue of implicit relations between clauses within clause complexes. A corpus-based study on this issue will make significant contribution to Chinese language typology and translation research and practice that involve the Chinese language.

We also suggest that it would be worthwhile investigating further instances where embedded clauses were translated into split ranking clauses with a logico-semantic relation different to that of the ST's Head noun and embedded clause (e.g. Example (34)). These may be translation shifts that make translators hesitate as they feel that such shifts would be necessary to make their translation fluent but at the same time they are aware that these would constitute a substantial shift from the ST logical meaning. Therefore, it would be worthwhile investigating the environments in which such translation shifts occur with large corpora.

Our study has a few limitations. We used only one ST, which largely limits our ability to generalise our findings. However, we believe that our findings are useful because on the one hand they confirm with evidence that what we normally do when translating embedded clauses is in fact in practice, and on the other hand they allowed us to discuss different translation choices in relation to shifts in meaning. In addition, there might be some analyses of the French ST that native French speakers disagree with as none of us are native French speakers. One of the consequences arising from this might be an increase or decrease of the total cases (111) examined. We believe any disagreement would be minor but we would nevertheless be interested in knowing if there would be any such differences and if so, whether or not they would change the findings substantially.

In spite of the limitations, we hope that the findings discussed in our study are of some help for translators to understand a variety of possible linguistic choices that are available and their impact on the meaning domain so that they can make informed decisions when translating this grammatical feature. We also hope that similar kinds of research are conducted in the near future to address our limitations and/or to complement our findings. In this way, we will advance our translation studies through rigorous research and hard evidence.

NOTES

1. For a detailed explanation of logico-semantic relations, see Halliday and Matthiessen (2014: Chapter 7)
2. In this study, “cases” refers to nominal groups modified by embedded clauses in the ST.

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