What do they find useful?

Feedback on

a diagnosis

and

a procedure-parameter approach

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Thanks

- Rebecca Tipton
- Myriam Salama-Carr
- LLAS

Personal profile

- Research
  - Theoretical linguistics, French syntax
  - Applied translation studies

Personal profile

- Translate/record film material
  - business / non-business clients

Personal profile

- Training of UG/PG students in Europe
  - EMT network
  - other universities / courses

Personal profile

- Training of professional translators
    - European Union (Commission, Luxembourg)
    - Institute of Translation and Interpreting
    - Chartered Institute of Linguists
    - North West Translators' Network
    - Société Française des Traducteurs
    - Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer
    - Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association
    - Webinars (eCPD)

Personal profile

- Privileged position

Focus

- Diagnosis
- Procedure-parameter approach
- Nature / role of theory
- Communication with client

Using feedback

- Usefulness of training
  - perceived ≠ proven
- Positive response
  - many factors
  - not all relevant

Diagnosis / How to improve

- Rationale
  - identify problems
  - target the remedies
- English-French translation
- Used with over 100 UG / PG students
- Form
  - 2 questionnaires
  - specific remedies provided
  - student formulates improvement strategies
  - follow up to discuss them

Questionnaire (1) findings

- Most typical answers
- Done profile before?

  never
- Perceived weaknesses
  - vague, incomplete
- Current improvement strategies
  - not sufficiently targeted

Questionnaire (1) findings

- Use of parallel texts
  - too little, too late
  - usefulness limited to terminology
- Frequencies of envisaged solutions
  - often not checked
- Targeted verifications
  - very rarely used

Questionnaire (1) findings

- Use of back-translation
  - extremely rare
  - usefulness underestimated
- Reading aloud
  - very rarely used
  - usefulness underestimated

Questionnaire (2)

- Profile based on marked translations
- Looking for patterns to target
  - highly visible with table format

Questionnaire (2)

Fréquence des problèmes		
Abré-viation	**Nature**	**Nombre**
ns	non-sens	non compris : compris, mal traduit :
cs	contresens	non compris : compris, mal traduit :
fs	faux sens	non compris : compris, mal traduit :
c	référence culturelle	non compris : compris, mal traduit :
om	omission	
inex	inexactitude	
ch	chiffre	
sur-tn	sur-traduction	
sous-tn	sous-traduction	
m	modalité	
t	temps	
acc	accord	
gre	genre	
art	article	

Questionnaire (2)

- Some overlap inevitable between categories
  - students not to worry
- Meaning
  - nonsense, "contresens", "faux sens", inexact; under- / over-translation; cultural reference; omission
  - Clear distinction
    - not understood vs. understood, but badly rendered

Questionnaire (2)

- Grammar
  - syntax, modalities, tense, articles, agreements, etc.
- Lexical problems
  - improper, collocation, style / register, repetitions, etc.
- Punctuation, formatting

Questionnaire (2)

Problème	Remède
Corriger n'est pas lire / relire.	- Pour mieux corriger le texte, varier son apparence physique : alterner écran / version imprimée ; changer la police, la couleur ; le lire à haute voix. - Effectuer des lectures ciblées sur un aspect à la fois (voir ci-dessous).
Non-sens, contresens, faux sens, omissions, inexactitudes, sous-traductions, sur-traductions.	- Retraduire oralement vers l'anglais pour identifier les erreurs. - Clarifier la cause : compréhension insuffisante ? Problème lors de la mise en français ? Modifications successives avec vérification insuffisante en fin de rédaction ? - Rectifier en conséquence : consacrer plus de temps à l'analyse du texte / à la mise en français / à la vérification en fin de rédaction.
Références culturelles incompréhensibles pour le lectorat ciblé.	- Identifier *toutes* les références culturelles. - Etablir la nature des paramètres pertinents et des procédés en principe utilisables en vous référant au cours de traductologie. - S'assurer que toute référence problématique est traitée convenablement (fournir une définition, explication, note en bas de page, etc. en fonction des contraintes).
Problèmes de traduction couverts en cours.	- Identifier dans chaque texte, en effectuant des lectures ciblées pour chacun d'entre eux, tous les éléments qui correspondent à des problèmes abordés dans vos cours de traduction / traductologie, afin d'établir un profil exact du texte et d'appliquer les stratégies qui ont été suggérées. - Pour les traductions qui constituent manifestement un suivi destiné à vous faire appliquer certains principes, bien faire tous les exercices de préparation et réviser le thème avant de faire la traduction.
Terminologie, style liés au sujet du texte.	- Analyser des textes parallèles *avant* de commencer à traduire afin d'adopter dès le départ une terminologie et un style appropriés. - Vérifier de manière plus rigoureuse l'information obtenue sur les sites Internet ou autres sources : pays d'origine; fiabilité du point de vue la qualité; fréquences relatives. - Tester les fréquences des solutions que vous envisagez sur Google.

Remedies

- Analyse parallel texts before translating
    - improve comprehension of topic
    - use visual information sources
    - search texts for
        - terminology
        - style features
        - formatting norms (fonts, referencing, spacing, capitalisation, figures, etc.)

Remedies

- Information content
    - back-translate orally to identify distortions and omissions
- Establish cause
- Not understood
    - spend more time on parallel texts, ST analysis
    - sum up the parts of the text

Remedies

- Understood but badly rendered
  - back-translate

Remedies

- Proofreading vs. reading
- Seeing mistakes
    - change physical appearance of text
        - font, background
        - screen vs. hard copy
        - read aloud
            - flow (place of relatives, adverbs), clarity, repetitions, sounds, etc.

Remedies

- Targeted verifications
  - read for ONE problem only (e.g. agreements)
  - in order of frequency

Feedback on diagnosis

- Never negative
- Minimum: confirmation
- Clearer view
  - strengths / weaknesses
  - objectives / remedies
- Looking at patterns of mistakes in a positive way
- Has improved performance
- See handout for actual comments

Procedures & parameters

- Training focus
- Example of workshop
- Rationale
- Example
- Advantages
- Feedback

Training focus

- "A translator needs a theory like a fish needs a bicycle."
- Existence of good translators with no theoretical training
- See Mailhac (2007)

Training focus

- Academic friendly
  - for (trainee) academic / researcher
- Skills developed
  - theorising
- Question to address
  - What happens?
  - Why?
- Examples
  - linguistics
  - translation studies

Training focus

- Translator friendly
  - for (trainee) translator
- Skills developed
  - decision making
  - "bedside manner"
    - client awareness raising
- Question to address
  - What do I do?
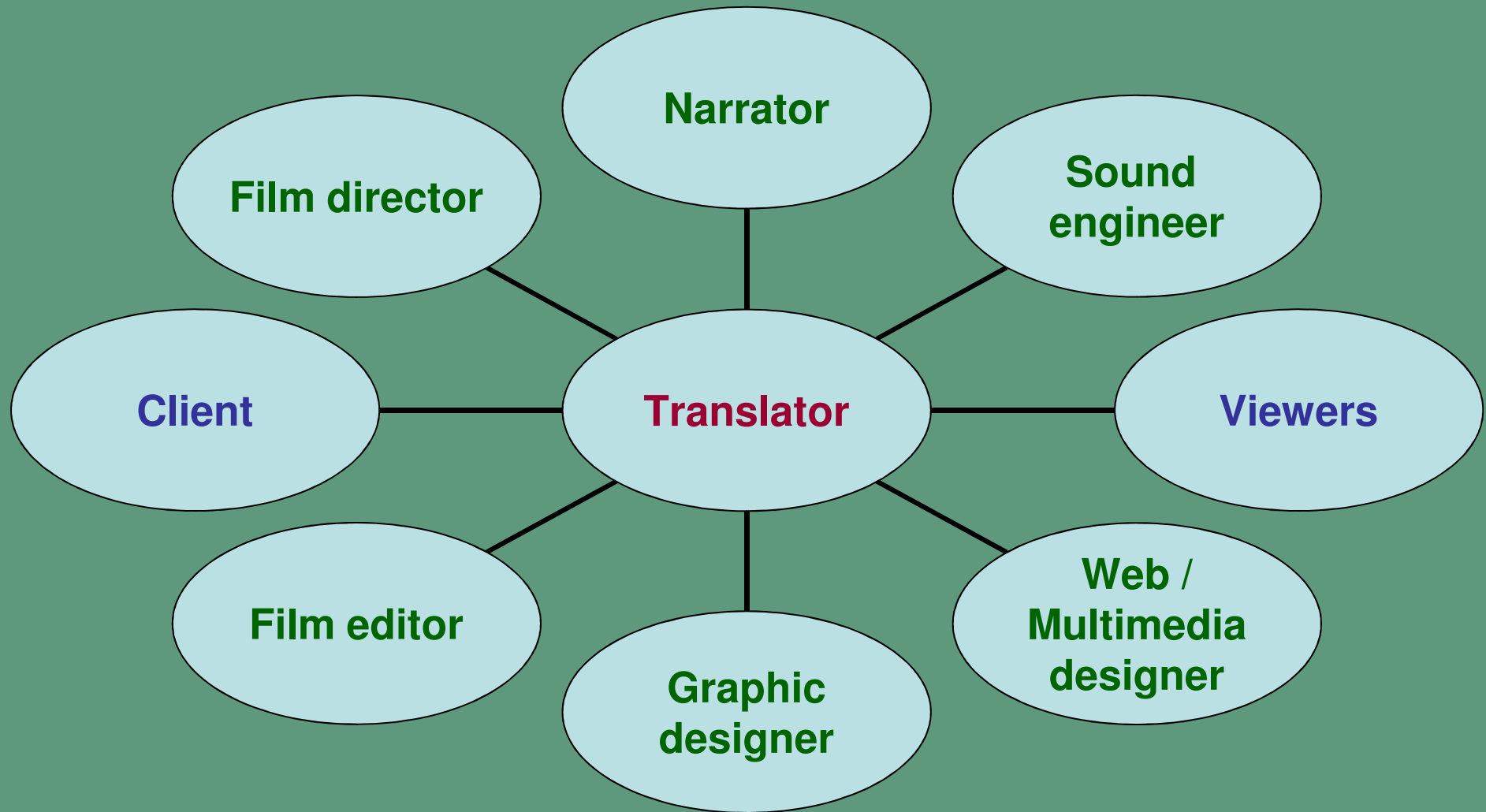- Examples
  - authentic relevant material

Training focus

Academic friendly	Translator friendly
theorising	decision making "bedside manner" client awareness raising

- Evolution of my teaching focus

Translating business film material

- Content
  - Initial checks and preparation, providing a quote, workflow, choice of AV mode of transfer, synchronisation, pronunciation, intonation (emphasis, tone), accents, culture, wordplay, currency figures, text on screen, dealing with client and intermediate users (awareness raising, "bedside manner")

Looking after users

Translating business film material

- Examples
  - All from authentic material, studio situations
- All decision making, no theorising
- Academics not uncomfortable with it

Feedback

	Total: 321 responses	
satisfied	very satisfied	extremely satisfied
14%	49%	36%

Procedures & parameters: rationale

- Translating:
  - problem solving
  - decision making
  - how to optimise decision making?
- What are the options?
  - list of procedures
- How to choose appropriate options?
  - list of parameters

Procedures & parameters: rationale

- Strategy
  - when to use a given tool
  - combines parameters and procedures
    "When…, then use…"

Parameters

- Multiple functions
  - translating
  - assessing translation quality
  - justifying decisions
    - collective projects
    - training context
    - revising context
    - advising client

Example: Currency figures

Introduction
1. Procedures
    - 18
2. Parameters
    - 20
3. Strategies
Conclusion

Advantages of approach

- Clear, logical
- Systematic, in depth
- Emphasizes decision making
- Highlights role of parameters
- Easy to refer to
- Generic
  - can apply to wide range of problems

Advantages of approach

- Reinforces desirable translational behaviour
- Critical filter to convert theorising into decision making
- Exploratory tool

Advantages of approach

- Empowering / reassuring
  - student
  - translator
  - client
  - lecturer

Feedback

- Students sensitive to many advantages
- See handout for sample

Conclusion

- Clear training distinction desirable between:
  - academic-friendly (theorising)
  - translator-friendly (decision making)
- Strong arguments in support of:
  - diagnosis
  - exploiting procedure-parameter approach to the maximum
- Both well received

Reference

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