How and What to LOVE in English and Swedish: a contrastive study of the translation of semantic fields

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Title: *How and What to LOVE in English and Swedish: a study of the translation of semantic fields*

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Abstract: The aim of the present study is to examine how the words belonging to the semantic fields of LOVE and ÄLSKA are translated and how the source language influences the target language. A corpus search in the fiction part of the ESPC was carried out to extract a data collection of appropriate size. The method used was a contrastive analysis, where the translation strategies were first identified and then compared between English and Swedish, and between original and translation, in order to identify similarities and differences. The results demonstrated that English has a more frequent and broad use of verbs belonging to the semantic field of LOVE, while Swedish does not use the verbs belonging to the semantic field of ÄLSKA as extensively. A strong influence of the source language could be observed in the translation, especially in terms of how frequently the verbs occurred in original compared to the number of occurrences in the translation.

Table of contents

INTRODUCTION

In the process of translation, one important element is to make an appropriate selection of words. Focusing specifically on word choice in translation of fiction, different translation strategies may have an impact on how the reader perceives the narrative. In this context, verbs related to emotions of affection, such as *love* or *like*, are interesting objects of study since a literal translation of the source language might not always express the same feeling, or level of emotion, in the target language. Though different vocabulary may be chosen to translate a word, this vocabulary needs to be connected to the original word, to convey the same meaning. This network of related vocabulary is referred to as a semantic field. One of the first scholars to apply this concept was the German linguist, Jost Trier. In 1931 he carried out a study of lexical fields, where he introduced the idea that in order to identify the true meaning of a word, it is necessary to describe the semantic area as a whole (Dollinger 2015: 210). Thus, the present project studies the semantic fields of English LOVE and Swedish ÄLSKA, with the aim of testing whether or not English and Swedish use the same verbs and the same constructions to express liking or affection. The data is extracted from the fiction part of the English-Swedish Parallel Corpus, ESPC (Altenberg et al: 2001).

The reason for studying this topic in a bilingual corpus is that it will be possible to identify a more general pattern than would be possible if only one text and its translation were studied. A similar project, concerned with both the verbs *love* and *hate* in Norwegian (with data from the Norwegian counterpart of ESPC) has been carried out by Johansson (2007). However, a paper that focuses on a semantic field containing verbs of feeling, with specific focus on the relation between Swedish and English has, to my knowledge, not yet been carried out. Thus, the present study aims toward an extended understanding of how those verbs are translated in fiction. Moreover, the results will be compared with the Norwegian study, with the aim of testing whether the proximity of Swedish and Norwegian leads to similar results or not.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESES

This paper will work with two hypotheses, of which one concerns the proximity between Swedish and Norwegian when translating LOVE/ÄLSKA/ELSKE. The second hypothesis focuses on the source language's presumed influence on the translation:

- When carrying out a study of LOVE/ÄLSKA, the proximity of Norwegian and Swedish leads to similar results to those by Johansson (2007).
- English has a broader use of LOVE, than Swedish has of ÄLSKA, which is reflected in the translations from English to Swedish and vice versa. In other words, the English influence increases the frequency of ÄLSKAR in Swedish translations, and the Swedish influence decreases the frequency of LOVE in English translations.

These two hypotheses lead to two research questions. The first focuses on the source language's influence on the translation and the second concerns similarities and differences between Swedish and English:

- Does the use of LOVE/ÄLSKA in the source language influence the translation, and if so, in what way?
- What translation strategies are used to translate the verbs belonging to the semantic fields of LOVE/ÄLSKA, and what are the similarities and differences between English and Swedish?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Interference and translationese

When a text is translated from one language to another, there is always a possibility that the source will influence the translation. In the context of Norwegian translation, Johansson claims that "The language of translated texts is a channel of English influence" (2007: 103). In other words, the Norwegian language use has changed because of the English influence.

Newmark (1991) makes a distinction between *interference* and *translationese*. He claims that interference is when a feature from the source language is carried over or literally translated to the target language. In its widest definition, this can be any case where the language

of the translation "is manifestly affected whether appropriately or not by the language of the original" (78). Translationese on the other hand, is described as "the area of interference where a literal translation of a stretch of the source language text (a) plainly falsifies (or ambiguates) its meaning, or (b) violates usage for no apparent reason" (Ibid.). So, while interference may in some cases be regarded as a phenomenon that is positive, or at least neutral, translationese is seen as a plain error in the translation. These concepts relate to the hypothesis that assumes that the source language influences the translation.

Semantic fields: the case of LOVE

To understand the aim of the study, it is necessary to establish what is meant by the concept *semantic field*. Krzeszowski (1990) refers to Trier's work when he describes semantic fields as one way of grouping words according to how they are connected to a certain field. These fields can be of different character, for example "unpleasant emotions, military ranks, educational terms […] sports" (82). Consequently, a semantic field can consist of different groups of words and its size may vary.

Dollinger points out that Trier stressed the interconnectedness of words to an extreme degree, where he argued that an item only carries meaning in the context of the entire field (2015: 210). Nevertheless, Dollinger further claims that "the connection of ideas of interconnectedness with the social correlates of linguistic items is almost immediately apparent" (Ibid). That is, the interconnectedness of the words belonging to a semantic field is still an interesting phenomenon in linguistics today, and in this paper I will aim to probe its usefulness for translation studies.

Translation of *love:* the case of Norwegian

By studying ENPC, the Norwegian counterpart to ESPC, Johansson (2007) shows that the "English verbs [*love* and *hate*] have a wider area of use than their Norwegian counterparts" (2007: 97). The Norwegian verbs *elske* and *hate* are almost consistently translated by *love* and *hate*, while the English counterparts more often are translated by other Norwegian verbs. Johansson describes this phenomenon as the verbs' expressions of a strong and a weakened sense, where strong and weak refer to the level of emotion that the person feels (2007: 102).

(1)   I **love** being single.
             (SG1)

(2)   I **love** you."
             (MS1T)

Example (1) is a case of weaker sense since it refers to the idea of being single, while (2) is an example of the stronger sense, since it refers to the feelings for a person.

As the quote above indicates, Johansson (2007) argues for a connection between a stronger or a weaker sense of *love* and the type of object used. He uses the terms 'personal' and 'non-personal' object, since the aim is not to study animacy as such, but rather whether the objects are persons or not. In English original texts the verbs tend to take non-personal objects while the Norwegian ones usually take personal objects (2007: 97). Johansson claims that "The weakened sense is most likely to appear where the verbs combine with non-personal objects, particularly complement clauses. The differences come out very clearly both in the overall distribution of the verbs and in their translation patterns" (2007: 102). In other words, English tends to use non-personal objects in combination with *love* (a weaker sense) while it is more common in Norwegian to associate *love* with a personal object (a stronger sense).

THEORY

Contrastive Analysis

This paper's general framework utilizes Johansson's definition of Contrastive Analysis, which he defines as: "the systematic comparison of two or more languages, with the aim of describing their similarities and differences" (2007:1). Given that Contrastive Analysis is concerned with the comparison of languages, a connection can be drawn to the field of translation studies. The position and role of translation studies as a research field has been discussed by many scholars (see e.g. Toury, 2012, Koller, 1995). Furthermore, Laviosa presents the "Corpus-based Translation Studies" as a combination of the methodology used for Corpus Linguistics and Descriptive Translation Studies, used to form a new paradigm (2002: 5). However, since the present study aims at studying the differences and similarities between English and Swedish in a bilingual corpus, it uses the Contrastive Analysis as defined by Johansson (2007) as a point of departure.

With respect to the advantages of using bilingual corpora in contrastive studies, Aijmer & Altenberg point out that corpora consisting of more than one language allow for new insights and an increase of language-specific knowledge, and that it makes it possible to identify differences between source texts and translations (1996: 12). In terms of the disadvantages of bilingual corpora, Fredriksson claims that those are "mainly relating to the fact that they [the translated texts] are not original texts in their own right, but exist as a product of the translation process" (2016: 15). Since the translator is a human being, the translation process will always contain an element of subjectivity. There are many theories regarding the translator's ideology, but these will not be discussed further in the present essay. Since this study looks at texts translated by different translators, focusing on one lexical feature, it is outside of this study's scope to discuss a particular translator's ideology. What is studied is rather the general tendencies and patterns that can be found by comparing a larger number of texts.

According to Chesterman (1997), one of the norms in translation (first formulated by Toury in the 70s) is the relation norm. It implies that "a translator should act in such a way that an appropriate relation of relevant similarity is established and maintained between the source text and the target text" (69). Thus, it is the translator's responsibility to judge what kind of similarity is necessary and relevant for every specific context and then adapt the translation to this situation. Chesterman further discusses that equivalence or "optimal similarity" could be what is asked for, however, this is rarely attainable. On the contrary, what is required might for example be a question of similarity in style or rhythm (Ibid). Since the present study is concerned with the translation of verbs of emotion in fiction, one can assume that in this type of texts an important element is to convey not only a literal translation but also the same "feeling" as in the original, with regard to the level emotion expressed.

Equivalence

Whether it is the aim of the translator or not to produce a translation as literally equal as possible to the original, equivalence is a concept that will always be present in studies of translation.

Koller (1995) considers the relation between the source and the target text "*a relationship, which can be designated as a translational, or equivalence relation*" (196, emphasis in original). He therefore describes equivalence as a relative concept, determined by the historical-cultural conditions that influence a text's production and reception in the target culture, for example different languages' world view and perception of reality. Furthermore,

equivalence is determined by linguistic and extra-linguistic factors such as the structure of the text and the norms of language (Ibid.).

Fredriksson raises the issue of equivalence as a difficult concept and emphasizes that in a corpus-based contrastive analysis there will rarely be a 100% correspondence between the source and the translation (2016: 13). Instead, Fredriksson refers to what Chesterman describes as a perception of similarity as the motivation for comparison, rather than a complete equivalence (1998: 55). Also, Fredriksson argues that since a complete correspondence is impossible, the corpus-based contrastive analysis is a matter of identifying networks: "Consequently, the constructions identified will form a network showing to what degree they correspond to each other" (2016: 13).

To continue, Koller discusses the importance of distinguishing between different frameworks of equivalence, where equivalence only implies that there exists some sort of apparent relationship between the source and the translation. This relationship can be related, for example, to the extra-linguistic circumstances, the connotations conveyed by the mode of verbalization, the text and language norms, the way the receiver is considered or how the aesthetic properties of the source text are encoded (1995: 197). By identifying the networks of constructions described by Fredriksson, bearing in mind that the frameworks of equivalence may vary, we can draw conclusions about the perceived similarity that Chesterman points out as the motivation of comparison (1998: 55). Thus, the translator's task is to achieve equivalence in the aspect that is considered most relevant for each text, with the support of the different frameworks of equivalence. Nevertheless, though Koller mainly focuses on different theoretical approaches of translation theory, he also points out that "it cannot be the task of translation theory to tell translators how to translate, nor to provide them with a theoretical – or worse, *the* theoretical – conception as guideline for their practical work" (1995: 200, emphasis in original). So, along with a consciousness of the theory behind translation studies, it is also necessary to bear in mind that practical translational work might not always use the theoretical tools identified in the field of translation studies.

METHOD

The present study will be more specialised than Johansson (2007), since it exclusively deals with the semantic field of LOVE rather than LOVE and HATE as in Johansson's case. Also, while Johansson looks at English, Norwegian and some German examples, this study only concerns English and Swedish. Since not only the verbal pair *love/älska* but also the rest of the

semantic field will be explored, the present study has a broader scope than is customary in translation studies, that have traditionally been limited to translational pairs and not entire semantic fields.

A suitable methodological framework for the present study was developed based on Fredriksson (2016). Her thesis has been important as inspiration and point of departure for this project, for example in terms of identifying different translation strategies (see, e.g. Fredriksson, 2016: 89).

Data collection

The data has been extracted from the fiction section of the Swedish-English Parallel Corpus (ESPC). This compilation of both fictional and non-fictional texts started at Lund University in 1993. The fiction part of the corpus consists of an equal number of text samples from English and Swedish, originals and translations (Altenberg et al: 2001). There are a great number of previous studies that explore this field (E.g. Fredriksson: 2016, Elgemark: 2016, Johansson: 2007, Altenberg & Granger: 2002), and these studies help to give a background and a methodological framework to the present BA-project. The reason for limiting the study to fiction is that the use of emotional expressions such as *love* or *like* are more likely to appear frequently in fiction than in non-fiction texts.

Regarding the limitations of the study, one issue that is important to bear in mind is that all novels that were used to create the ESPC are at least 20 years old. However, though the texts are not new, they are recent enough to capture present-day usages. In addition, the ESPC is an invaluable resource for this type of study.

The extraction of the data was carried out in several steps. The aim was to first identify the semantic fields of LOVE/ÄLSKA, extract the data regarding this semantic field from the ESPC fiction section and then answer the research questions and test the hypotheses. Originally, the study was intended to include the semantic fields of both LOVE/ÄLSKA and HATE/HATA. However, the amount of data became too large for the present study, thus, it will only be concerned with the semantic field of LOVE.

The first step of the data extraction process was to identify the semantic fields, by using thesauri to make lists of all possible synonyms (*Oxford Thesaurus*, 1991, *Nordstedts Svenska Synonymordbok*, 2009). All those synonyms were searched for in the ESPC, both in original and in translated text (for total results, see appendix). Secondly, in order to establish a

list of the words belonging to the semantic field of LOVE and ÄLSKA, the most frequent verbs were selected for further analysis (a great number of the synonyms searched for had zero or one hit each, see appendix). The sentences where these verbs occurred were then studied in detail, and the final list of words to be included in the study were all possible variants of *love* and *älska* together with three other verbs and expressions: *like*, *be/fall in love* and *make love*. The Swedish counterparts included in the study were, except all possible variants of *älska*: *tycka om*, *vara/bli förälskad/kär* and *älska (med)*. Also, for Swedish the verb *gilla* had to be discussed, with the motivation that in a large number of cases it constitutes the counterpart of English *like*, which for this study is considered part of the semantic field of LOVE.

The selection of what data to include in the study was based primarily on the frequency in the ESPC. Nevertheless, *make love* and *be/fall in love* were selected because they are closely related to the verb *love*. For example, another Swedish synonym *vara förtjust i* (occurring with a similar frequency), was not included since it implies happiness rather than love. Moreover, *make love* and *be/fall in love* describe the feeling of love from the perspective of an action more than a state. This distinction may be interesting to compare in terms of similarities and differences when translated.

The ESPC searches faced some problems in the collection process, which is why the rationale is made explicit to a greater degree than is perhaps customary in the following list. In the below list, the selection is motivated and clarified, based on Nordstedts online Swedish-English dictionary (www.ord.se):

1. *love* is included in the sense of: "älska; tycka [mycket] om, hålla [mycket] av" but not in the sense of: "*yes, I'd love to* ja, mycket (hemskt) gärna, ja, med förtjusning" or "*my loved ones* mina nära och kära" (ord.se: *love*).

2. In the case of *älska*, what is included is the direct translation to *love*, as showing affection to a person, as well as appreciation of a thing or an activity: "*han älskar att dansa* he loves (is [very] fond of) dancing". Moreover, "*älska med ngn* make love to sb, have sex with sb" is included in the section of *make love* (ord.se: *älska*). Finally, *bli/vara förälskad/kär* were counted together, since they both mostly correspond to English *be/fall in love*.

3. *Like* is included in the sense of: "tycka [bra] om, gilla" but not in the sense of: "[gärna] vilja, ha lust; vilja ha <I like my tea strong>" (ord.se: *like*).

4. Since both *tycka om* and *gilla* according to the dictionary can be translated as *like,* both verbs were included in the study, e.g. "*jag gillar henne inte vidare värst* I don't like her much". (ord.se: *tycka om, gilla*).

5. Negations. All relevant examples where a negated form is used were included. In the separate count of the negations, only cases where the verb was combined with *not, inte, never* or *aldrig* were included, e.g:

(3)   a. Hon **älskar** mig **inte**.
            (BL1)

            b. She **does not love** me.
            (BL1T)

Negations were only counted in the case of Literal translation. In the tables, the percentage of negations is calculated based on the total number occurrences of this strategy. For other translation strategies, e.g. Paraphrase, Synonymy or Change of VP, the negated forms are significantly less frequent.

6. Double occurrences. If the same form of a verb occurred twice or more in one sentence and was translated using the same translation strategy in both cases, it is only counted as one token in this study. Verbs that change form from original to translation are counted as separate tokens.

(4)   a. […] and Jane **loved** children, loved them
            (FW1)

            b. […] och Jane **var mycket förtjust** i barn, hon älskade ungar
            (FW1T)

(5)   a. […] and Jane loved children, **loved** them
            (FW1)

            b. […] och Jane var mycket förtjust i barn, hon **älskade** ungar
            (FW1T)

(6)   a. Kate **fell in love** with Stuart; Stuart **fell in love** with Kate.
            (MD1)

            b. Kate blev kär i Stuart; Stuart blev kär i Kate.
            (MD1T)

Examples (4) and (5) contain different verb forms in original and in translation, *loved - var mycket förtjust* and *loved - älskade* and are thus counted as two tokens, while (6a) and (6b) contain the same verb form in both cases, *fell in love – blev kär,* and those are thus counted as one token.

7. All verb forms were searched for (tense, number, negation) but the verbs are presented in the tables in their infinitive form to give a clear overview of the results. Nevertheless, the numbers and percentages include all possible inflections of each verb.

8. It is necessary to bear in mind that a small number of discontinuous instances of LOVE/ÄLSKA may not have been retrieved, for example if there is an adverb or adjective inserted that alters the phrase structure. E.g. 'Jag tycker verkligen om dig' will not appear in a corpus search for *tycker om*. To avoid this data loss, for some cases such as *tycker om,* separate searches were carried out to extract the negated form *tycker inte om*. However, a more detailed search with respect to adverb placement might be a topic for further studies.

Translation strategies

To be able to identify a network of the translations of *love, älska* etc., it is necessary to identify the set of strategies that can be discerned. The concept of strategies may have various classifications. Like Fredriksson (2016), I will base the identification of translation strategies on Chesterman's classification. Of course, Chesterman's list (1997) will be adapted to suit the aim of study. Chesterman suggests three main groups of categories 'Syntactic strategies', 'Semantic strategies' and 'Pragmatic categories' (1997: 94, 101, 107). For the present study, which focuses on one specific semantic field, the strategies identified will mainly be related to the semantic and syntactic strategies. Nevertheless, as Fredriksson (2016: 89) points out, various strategies often overlap. Thus, it might sometimes be necessary to, in addition, highlight pragmatic strategies (such as Paraphrase, see below) when they occur. Following the method of Fredriksson, a number of translation strategies will be identified and grouped into what she calls "translation correspondence groups" (2016: 89). The "correspondence groups" identified for the present study are: Literal translation, Phrase structure change, Change on a lexical level and Clause structure change.

1. Literal translation

2. Phrase structure change
  2.1 Change of VP
  2.2. Emphasis change

3. Change on a lexical-level
  3.1. Transposition
  3.2. Synonymy
  3.3 Converse

4. Clause structure change
  4.1. Paraphrase

Literal translation (1) is described by Chesterman as a translation that is as close as possible to the source but still grammatically correct (1997: 94).

      The Phrase structure change category includes all changes on the phrase level. Tense, mood and aspect are examples of Change of verb phrase (2.1). Emphasis change (2.2) changes the emphasis by adding, reducing or altering information in the verb phrase (ibid, 104).

      The changes on the lexical level are divided into three subcategories. Transposition (3.1) means a change of word class, in this case e.g. from a verb to a noun (ibid, 95), as shown in example (7):

(7)   a. […] but Natalie **loved** them, as mothers love their children, blindly.
        <u>(FW1)</u>

        b. […] Natalie älskade med den blinda **kärlek** som mödrar brukar hysa för sina barn.
        <u>(FW1T)</u>

Synonymy (3.2) implies a selection of another word than the most 'obvious' equivalent, not the one usually considered as the closest one, as shown in (8) where *loved* is translated to *gillade* (and not *älskade*).

(8)   a. We **loved** marching.
        <u>(RDO1)</u>

        b. Vi **gillade** att marschera.
        <u>(RDO1T)</u>

Converse (3.3) implies that the viewpoint is changed in the verbal structure of the translation. This means that the original verb is replaced with one describing the action from the reverse point of view, e.g. *buy* translated to *sälja* (ibid, 103).

The last main category is the Clause structure change (4). Paraphrase (4.1) refers to the freer translation where the semantic components at the lexeme level are not translated directly but rather in a way that transfers the pragmatic meaning (ibid, 104), as in (9):

(9)   a. He **loved** fish best.
(JC1)

          b. Fisk var **det bästa** han visste.
(JC1T)

As mentioned earlier by Fredriksson (2016), the Paraphrase strategy is a case where the pragmatic perspective needs to be considered, in addition to the semantic and syntactic perspectives.

RESULTS

The results section begins with an analysis of the frequency and the type of objects used in the extracted data, and then continues by presenting and discussing the different translation strategies and how the translations correspond or differ between Swedish and English.

Frequency and type of object

First, the frequency and type of objects used will be analysed closely. As mentioned earlier, Johansson's results showed that English *love* occurred more frequently than the Norwegian counterpart *elske*. *Love* was almost three times more common than *elske* (2007: 96). Furthermore, English used non-personal objects to a higher degree in combination with *love*, while Norwegian tended to use *love* together with personal objects more frequently. The translated texts reflected the frequency pattern of the original, in the sense that Norwegian translations of English texts presented a higher level of non-personal objects and vice versa (2007: 97). In other words, a clear example of English interference in the translation could be observed.

As mentioned in the methods section, all possible forms were searched for in the ESPC. In the following tables, however, they are presented only by the bare infinitive, to give a clearer overview of the results.

Table 1. LOVE

English original, LOVE	
Word:	Verb:
love	69
like	132
be|fall in love	21
make love	8
English translation, LOVE	
Word:	Verb:
love	34
like	79
be|fall in love	12
make love	5

Table 2. ÄLSKA

Swedish original, ÄLSKA	
Word:	Verb:
älska	35
tycka om + gilla	58
vara|bli förälskad|kär	6
älska (med)	4
Swedish translation, ÄLSKA	
Word:	Verb:
älska	60
vara|bli förälskad|kär	11
tycka om + gilla	135
älska (med)	9

The relation between the English and Swedish verbs in original and translation is presented below:

Eng. Orig.   Eng. Transl.

love (69)   →   *love* (34)
like (132)   →   *like* (79)
be/fall in love (21)   →   *be/fall in love* (12)
make love (8)   →   *make love* (5)

Sw. Orig.   Sw. Transl.

älska (35)   →   *älska* (60)
tycka om/gilla (58)   →   *tycka om/gilla* (135)
bli/vara kär/förälskad (6)   →   *bli/vara kär/förälskad* (11)
älska (med) (4)   →   *älska (med)* (9)

Clearly, there exists a difference in terms of frequency between LOVE and ÄLSKA. As presented above, all verbs occur with a higher frequency in English original than in Swedish original. When it comes to the translation, all Swedish verbs have increased in frequency when looking at the translated versions, with roughly the double. In the English translation on the other hand, the opposite process can be observed, in the sense that all verbs' frequency has decreased.

This shows that Swedish follows the same pattern as Norwegian does, according to Johansson (2007). *Love* (and the rest of the verbs belonging to the semantic field) occurs more frequently in original than *älska*. Moreover, the source language has an influence on the number of occurrences in the translation.

Though *love* and *älska* are the words used when the semantic field was established, the tables show that *like* and *tycka om*/*gilla* are the most frequent verbs in the ESPC search (based on which verbs the thesauri relates to *love* and *älska*). The fact that *like* occurs in original with significantly higher frequency might indicate that *like* in English is used in a broader sense, where Swedish has other expressions at its disposal, as in example (10) where English *like* is translated to Swedish *trivs*:

(10)   a. By the by, how do you **like** F.1 (D)?"
              (FF1)

              b. Apropå ingenting, hur **trivs** du på F.1(D)?"
              (FF1T)

Since *like* and *tycka om/gilla* usually express a less intense feeling than *love* or *älska*, it is not strange that they are used more frequently. In the discussion of translation strategies for *love*, in the below section, the relation between *love* and *tycka om/gilla* will be discussed further.

The following section, regarding the objects combined with *love/älska* also uses Johansson's study (2007) of Norwegian as a point of departure. Since Johansson studied the objects only in combination with *love*, this study has similarly been limited to the same verb, in order to make an appropriate comparison. The tables show the number and percentage of occurrences of each kind of object.

Table 3. Type of object, LOVE (n, %)

	English original, LOVE	English translation, LOVE
Personal	29, 42%	18, 53%
Non-personal	36, 52%	11, 32%
No object	4, 6%	5, 15%
Total	69, 100%	34, 100%

Table 4. Type of object, ÄLSKA (n, %)

	Swedish original, ÄLSKA	Swedish translation, ÄLSKA
Personal	20, 57%	26, 43%
Non-personal	9, 26%	29, 48%
No object	6, 17%	5, 8%
Total	35, 100%	60, 100%

When studying the percentages for personal objects, one can observe that Swedish uses *älska* in original with personal object in 57% of the cases, compared to English, where *love* is used with personal object in original 42% of the cases. For *love*, the use of personal objects increases when the verb is translated to Swedish, while the situation is reversed for *älska*. The same pattern can also be identified for non-personal objects, where the percentages increases or decreases with approximately 20% when comparing original and translation. Number-wise,

English *love* presents a higher number of non-personal objects, while Swedish *älska* has a higher number of personal objects. In sum, the present study reaches a similar result to what Johansson (2007) presented for English-Norwegian translations: the Swedish uses personal objects to a larger extent than English does, combined with *love* or *älska*, and the source language influences the usage of personal and non-personal objects in the translation.

Another difference between English and Swedish in the results of this study is that Swedish also uses *älska* with no object following more often than English (*älska* in original with no object 17%, *love* in original with no object 4%), as in (11):

(11)   a. Där det är svårt **att älska**, där blir det tydligt om man menar allvar eller inte
(PE1)

b. Where it becomes hard **to love**, that is where it becomes clear whether one is serious or not.
(PE1T)

This pattern is also reflected in the translations (*älska* in translation with no object 8%, *love* in translation with no object 15%). A suggestion for further studies might be to compare this feature with the Norwegian data to test if the same pattern is represented there.

Translation strategies: differences and similarities

This section will present the identified translation strategies for the extracted data, and discuss these with the research questions as a point of departure. In each column, it is stated which verb or expression that has been studied (e.g. LOVE, Original or ÄLSKA, Translation etc.) The number and percentage of verbs used in a negated sense that have been translated literally are stated in parentheses in the same column as the strategy of Literal translation.

First some general observations are pointed out and then each verb and its strategies are discussed separately with examples from the data to support the analysis. For all verbs in the present study, the most frequent translation strategy is the Literal translation. The percentages differ from verb to verb, and they rarely present an equal percentage for both original and translation. However, when comparing table 5 and 6, we can see that the *number* of Literal translations correspond between original and translation (44 vs. 26). So, the strategy of Literal translation is used the same amount of times for *love* and for *älska*.

Table 5. Translation strategies for LOVE (n, %)

Translation strategies	English original, LOVE	English translation, LOVE
Literal	44, 64%	26, 77% (Negated 4, 12 % of total)
Change of VP	7, 10%	4, 12%
Paraphrase	8, 12%	2, 6%
Transposition	2, 3%	-
Synonymy	5, 7%	1, 3%
Literal + emphasis change	1, 1%	-
Synonymy + emphasis change	2, 3%	-
Converse	-	1, 3%
Total:	69, 100%	34, 100%

As shown in table 5, the percentages for Literal translation of *love* both in original and in translation are, with 64% / 77%, very high with a slightly higher percentage for the translated version. Change of VP presents the same percentage for original and translation, while Paraphrase and Synonymy have a higher percentage for original than for translation. Transposition is only used for *love* in original. Also, emphasis change in combination with other strategies only occurs for *love* in original, while Converse appears once for *love* in translation.

The fact that the emphasis change only occurs in original, might imply that Swedish tends to have a need to specify *love* when translating the word from English. In English original, the verb seems to be used in a more general form, as can be observed in the following examples:

(12)   a. Now Jean **loved** dropping bombshells.
            (FW1)
            b. Jean älskade **verkligen** att låta nyheter slå ner som en bomb.
            (FW1T)

(13)   a. But I **loved** it all the same.
            (RD1)
            b. Men jag tyckte **väldigt** mycket om den boken i alla fall.
            (RD1T)

The Swedish adverbs *verkligen* and *väldigt* have been added in the translation, with the function of specifying the verbs. However, it is important to bear in mind that the numbers of the present study are too low to be able to generalize about how and when Emphasis change occurs.

      For the cases where the translation strategy used is Synonymy it is interesting to note that *love* can be translated to *tycka om* or *gilla*. Not only does this strengthen the need to include *tycka om* and *gilla* in the study, but it also supports the claim that English *love* is used in a sense that does not always correspond to Swedish *älska*:

(14)   a. He **loved** to take the train into Antwerp
(FF1)

b. Han **tyckte om** att ta tåget till Antwerpen
(FF1T)

(15)   a. To her, he was just the kind, bearded Matt, who laughed and sang […] and whom she **loved**.
(AL1T)

b. För henne var han bara den där skäggiga snälla Mattis som skrattade och sjöng […], honom **tyckte** hon **om**.
(AL1)

Examples (14) and (15) show how Swedish do not use *älska* but rather *tycka om/gilla* in these contexts, where (14) expresses a preferred activity and (15) describes the spontaneous feelings of a small child. In the data extracted for the present study, this occurs in total 9 times in the sense that *love* is replaced with *tycka om/gilla* (compared to only 2 cases of the reversed situation). This supports the claim that English has a broader use of *love*, that includes not only feelings for persons but also for non-personal objects, as in (14). The English cases also show a tendency towards a usage of *love* to express a less intense level of emotion, similar to what Johansson describes as the *weakened sense* of the verb (2007: 102).

      The Paraphrase strategy results in varying types of translations, however, one structure that occurs repeatedly is *love best* translated by paraphrasing the Swedish sentence:

(16)   a. He **loved** it best, at Summerfest, when all the cranes were hung with streamers and with lights
(JC1)

b. Allra mest **uppskattade** han dem under sommarens festival då alla kranarna pryddes med girlander och lyktor
(JC1T)

In (16), the construction *love best* is not translated in the sense of Swedish *älska* but rather by using the verb *uppskatta* to express appreciation.

Table 6. Translation strategies for ÄLSKA (n, %)

Translation strategies	Swedish original, ÄLSKA	Swedish translation, ÄLSKA
Literal	26, 74% (Negated 4, 11% of total)	44, 73%
Change of VP	4, 11%	7, 12%
Paraphrase	3, 9%	3, 5%
Transposition	-	3, 5%
Converse	1, 3%	-
Synonymy	1, 3%	1, 2%
Literal + emphasis change	-	2, 3%
Total:	35, 100%	60, 100%

First of all one can observe that the percentages for Literal translation and Change of VP show an almost equal percentage for original and translation. Paraphrase is in terms of percentage more frequent in original than in translation, and Transposition occurs only for *älska* in translation. Converse corresponds with the percentage shown in table 5, and the Emphasis change strategy occurs when *älska* is translated from English, which follows the suggestion that Swedish needs to specify the use of *love/älska* more than English. The percentages for the Synonymy strategy are more equal between original and translation for the case of *älska* than for *love*.

For the case of the Change of VP strategy, the most common types of changes are either a change of tense as in (17) or a case where the expression of the progressive form of Swedish and English differ (18):

(17)   a. Han och jag hade levt tillsammans ett tag därefter i ett fördragsamt förhållande där ingen av oss förstod den andre, även om jag inte tvivlade på att han **älskade** mig, på sitt sätt. (DF1T)

b. The old man and I had lived briefly together after that in tolerant mutual non-comprehension, though I had no doubt that he**'d loved** me, in his way. (DF1)

(18)   a. For **loving** her son, wanting to protect him from his invisible phantoms that lay crouching in the dark?
(GN1)

      b. För att hon **älskade** sin son, för att hon ville skydda honom från alla de hotfulla demoner som låg hopkrupna i mörkret.
(GN1T)

In sum, the most interesting features regarding the translation of *love/älska* are the facts that *love* in several cases is replaced with *tycka om/gilla*, and that the usage of adverbs to specify verbs in Swedish differs from English, where adverbs are not as frequent in this position.

Since both *be/fall in love* and *make love* and their Swedish counterparts *bli/vara kär/förälskad* are set expressions, they differ from the other verbs included in the study, and will thus not be compared directly with e.g. *love* and *like*. However, the translation strategies used for these expressions are interesting to compare to the ones used for the other verbs, to explore if there is a difference in which strategies are used to translate fixed expressions.

Table 7. Translation strategies for BE/FALL IN LOVE, and BLI/VARA KÄR/FÖRÄLSKAD (n, %)

Translation strategies	English original, BE/FALL IN LOVE	English translation, BE/FALL IN LOVE
Literal	17, 81% (Negated 1, 5% of total)	6, 55%
Change of VP	-	2, 18%
Paraphrase	2, 10%	1, 9%
Transposition	1, 5%	2, 18%
Converse	1, 5%	-
Total:	21	11
Translation strategies	Swedish original, BLI/VARA KÄR/FÖRÄLSKAD	Swedish translation, BLI/VARA KÄR/FÖRÄLSKAD
Literal	5, 83%	17, 94% (Negated 1, 6% of total)
Change of VP	1, 17%	-
Converse	-	1, 6%
Total:	6, 100%	18, 100%

With the exception of *älska (med)* in translation (44%, see table 8) the strategy of Literal translation is used for more than 50% of all cases. This fact corresponds to the overall pattern for how the single verbs in the study are translated. Since the amount of sample sentences is rather small, it is difficult to generalize about the other strategies used. Thus, no marked difference can be observed in the extracted data, in terms of translation strategies used for set expressions compared to single verbs.

For *be/fall in love* and *bli/vara kär/förälskad* one interesting feature is the frequent use of an additional adverb to refer to these processes, in both Swedish and English. The sentence can still be regarded a Literal translation in the context of the present study, since the verb is translated literally, however, more information is added than what is usual with *love* or *älska*. Whether or not these adverbs are translated literally is not observed here, but might be an interesting topic for further studies. Examples of this are *genuinely* and *djupt* in (19) and *hopelessly* and *måttlöst* in (20):

(19)   a. She had **genuinely** fallen in love with him
           (FF1)

           b. Hon hade blivit **djupt** förälskad i honom.
           (FF1T)

(20)   a. He and a captain in the Guards were **hopelessly** in love with the same *whore*.
           (SCO1T)

           b. Han och en kapten i gardet var **måttlöst** förälskade i samma *hora*.
           (SCO1)

In the case of Swedish, this phenomenon can be explained by the fact that the prefix *för-* carries not only lexical meaning, but also marks aspectual meaning, in the sense that *förälskad* describes a process rather than a static verb.

Make love is another expression that is included for being related to the verb *love*. Other vocabulary items such as *ligga med/sleep with* or *knulla/fuck,* are not as clearly related to the verbs *love/älska* and are thus not included in the study.

Table 8. Translation strategies for MAKE LOVE and ÄLSKA (med) (n, %)

Translation strategies	English original, MAKE LOVE	English translation, MAKE LOVE
Literal	5, 63%	4, 80%
Change of VP	2, 25%	-
Transposition	1, 13%	-
Paraphrase	-	1, 20%
Total:	8, 100%	5, 100%
Translation strategies	Swedish original, ÄLSKA (med)	Swedish translation, ÄLSKA (med)
Literal	4, 100%	4, 44%
Change of VP	-	2, 22%
Paraphrase	-	2, 22%
Transposition	-	1, 11%
Total:	4, 100%	9, 100%

In Swedish, the context decides whether *älska* means *love* or *make love,* while English usually uses different vocabulary to express the feeling of affection and the sexual intercourse. When translating, this might lead to confusion, as in (21):

(21)   a. De sover i samma säng, men **älskar** han **med** henne, efter det att han har kommit från den andra?
(NG1T)

b. They sleep in the same bed, but does he **love** her, after he's come from the other one?
(NG1)

In the original (21b) it is not clear if *love* refers to sex or just affection. It is ambiguous since the sentence talks about sleeping in the same bed, but does not use the expression *make love*. (21a) is more directly referring to sex, using the Swedish *älska med*. However, as in the case of *be/fall in love*, the amount of data is too limited to make it possible to draw any general conclusions regarding the translation of this expression without access to the novel and a possibility of studying the examples in context.

Table 9. Translation strategies for LIKE (n, %)

Translation strategies	English original, LIKE	English translation, LIKE
Literal	109, 83% (of which negated: 23, 18%)	55, 70 % (of which negated: 17, 22%)
Change of VP	5, 3%	1, 1%
Paraphrase	15, 11%	22, 28%
Synonymy	1, 0,8%	1, 1%
Transposition	1, 0,8	-
Literal + emphasis change	1, 0,8%	-
Total:	132, 100%	79, 100%

For the case of *like*, the strategy of Literal translation is dominating. What is striking, however, is the high number of negated forms. Around 1/5 of the total number of hits are negated for both the original and translated form of *like*. One reason for this high number of negated uses might be that *like* does not express as strong feelings as *love* or *älska*. *Love* and *älska* in negated form would rather be expressed with other vocabulary, such as *hate* or *hata*, which represent the opposite feeling. *Like* on the other hand, is used in a more relaxed and general way, about a wide range of different things, persons and situations. This more 'relaxed' way of affection lends itself to negation as a typical politeness move, as shown in (22):

(22)   a. Lots of people **don't like** him, and some actively loathe him
          (JB1)
          b. Massor med människor **tycker inte om** honom, och somliga faktiskt avskyr honom
          (JB1T)

In (22) it is clearly illustrated how *like* is used with a negation added while a stronger feeling of dislike is expressed by *loathe* (no negation added). *Don't like* is translated by *tycker inte om*, while *loathe* is translated by *avsky*. So, *like* occurs more frequently in a negated form since there is no obvious word that expresses the opposite, as there is in the case of *love – hate*.

To continue, the second most occurring translation strategy of *like*, both in original and in translated form, is the Paraphrase. For English original the percentage is 12% and for *like* in translation 25%, which means that it outnumbers all other alternative strategies,

which only have a few hits each. This implies that *like* is either literally translated, or expressed in a different, paraphrased way when translated.

(23)   a. - I know, but I **like** to talk.
(RDA1)

            b. - Jag vet, men jag **tycker om** att prata.
(RDA1T)

(24)   a. "I don't think a group **would like** the sound of that."
(MD1)

            b. "Jag tror inte att ett sådant yttrande **skulle få passera** i en terapigrupp."
(MD1T)

In the examples above, (23) shows a typical case of a clear Literal translation, translated word by word, while (24) is a typical case of Paraphrase, where the sentence is re-formulated in the translation.

Another interesting sentence is (25), where *like* is used three times and is translated into Swedish by using three different strategies.

(25)   a. **When I meet people I like**, instead of saying more and showing I **like** them and asking questions, I sort of clam up, as if I don't expect them **to like** me, or as if I 'm not interesting enough for them.
(JB1)

            b. **Träffar jag sympatiska människor** så tiger jag mer eller mindre som en mussla, istället för att visa dem **mitt gillande** och bidra till konversationen; det är som om jag utgår från att de **inte ska gilla** mig eller att jag inte är intressant nog.
(JB1T)

For the first *like,* the Paraphrase strategy is used, the second *like* is a case of transposition while the last one is translated by Change of VP. One reason for this variety of translations might be to avoid repetition, since the verb *like* is not generally used as frequently in Swedish as in English. To use *tycka om* three times in a sentence would sound rather strange, while it works fine with three *like* in the same sentence in English. This example shows again, how both *like* and *love* seem to have a broader use in English than in Swedish.

The Paraphrase strategy leads to a large number of different constructions and formulations. One example, that occurs with certain frequency is *like* translated into Swedish as *trivas* and vice versa.

(26) a. And she **liked** it there
(AL1T)

b. Och där **trivdes** hon
(AL1)

In the above example, *trivas* in (26b) is the original and *like* in (26a) is the translation where the Paraphrase strategy has been used. Nevertheless, examples of the reversed situation can also be found in the corpus.

Table 10. Translation strategies for TYCKA OM (n, %)

Translation strategies	Swedish original, TYCKA OM	Swedish translation, TYCKA OM
Literal	34, 87% (of which negated: 12, 35%)	55, 72% (of which negated: 18, 33%)
Paraphrase	3, 8%	10, 13%
Change of VP	1, 3%	5, 7%
Synonymy	-	7, 9%
Transposition	1, 3%	-
Total:	39, 100%	77, 100%

Something worth to comment on for the translated form of *tycka om* is the fact that Synonymy is used to a larger extent than for the English counterpart, where the strategy is barely used at all. Alternative vocabulary such as *love, enjoy, admire, appreciate* and *approve* are the original verbs that have been translated into the Swedish *tycka om*. Examples (27) to (29) illustrate the most important uses:

(27) a. Han **tyckte om** flygplan.
(AT1T)

b. He **approved of** planes.
(AT1)

(28) a. […] och det förvånar henne en smula när hon upptäcker att hon **tycker om** att höra på.
(BR1T)

b. […] and somewhat to her surprise she discovers that she **enjoys** listening.
(BR1)

(29)   a. Han **tyckte om** att ta tåget till Antwerpen
              (FF1T)

              b. He **loved** to take the train into Antwerp
              (FF1)

Among these examples, (27) shows how the English, rather formal, original *approve of* has been translated into the less formal *tyckte om*. In (28), on the other hand, *enjoys* is translated into *tycker om*. These two expressions could be regarded more equally casual in terms of formality, than *approve* and *tyckte om*. Example (29) shows how *love* is translated to *tycka om*, as mentioned in the discussion of *love*. These examples can be compared to *tycka om* in original, where Synonymy has not been used as a translation strategy one single time. This, together with the fact that *tycka om* occurs almost the double amount of times in translation than in original, might be interpreted as a sign of a broader English usage of *like,* where the English verb is not always translated into Swedish as *tycka om*. Examples of alternative translation choices are *gilla* (primarily) and *trivas. Gilla* will not be discussed further in the present study, however, the table that presents its total numbers and percentages can be found in the appendix.

CONCLUSION

To conclude the present study, the answers of the two research questions will be summarised briefly, and the hypotheses will be discussed. Finally, some suggestions for further studies will be made.

The first research question is concerned with the source text's influence on the translation. In this context, when studying the semantic field of LOVE/ÄLSKA it has clearly been shown that the original has an influence in terms of frequency of occurrences of the studied verbs. The higher frequency of LOVE in English original increased the usage in the Swedish translation. Similarly, the lower frequency of ÄLSKA in Swedish original diminished the usage of these verbs in the English translations.

Since the corpus consists of different novels translated by different translators, it is not possible to decide whether this influence of frequency is a case of 'translationese', or if the influence can be regarded as a more natural interference from the source language. The type of source text influence has to be evaluated for each example. Nevertheless, a clear interference of the source text can be observed when verbs belonging to the semantic fields of

LOVE/ÄLSKA are translated, both in terms of frequency of occurrences and types of objects used. The second research question is on the strategies used to translate the verbs belonging to the semantic fields of LOVE/ÄLSKA and their respective similarities and differences. Regarding the strategies, the following ranked order could be identified: Literal translation, Paraphrase, Change of VP, Synonymy and Transposition. The less frequent, but still present are Emphasis Change and Converse. However, due to their limited number of occurrences, these have not been discussed in detail.

No clear pattern is discerned regarding the use of the different strategies, except the fact that Literal translation is the most common strategy. In the cases of Synonymy and Paraphrase, these strategies lead to different word choices and constructions for each example. The strategy Change of VP is mainly concerned with changes of tense, mood or aspect.

The first hypothesis regarding a proximity between Swedish and Norwegian could not be falsified, neither with respect to frequency nor the type of objects used with the verbs *love/älska*. Both Norwegian and Swedish had a higher frequency of personal objects related to *love/älska* than English. Also, the Norwegian and Swedish verbs were used less frequently in original than their English counterparts, in terms of number of occurrences. This leads up to the second hypothesis about a broader use of English LOVE than Swedish ÄLSKA. According to the results of this study, English does use *love* more frequently and in a broader sense. This is shown not only in the frequency numbers but also by the cases where *love* does not correspond with *älska,* for example in the cases where English *love* is replaced by Swedish *tycka om/gilla.* Finally, connecting back to Koller's equivalence frameworks (1995: 197) a difference can be identified in terms of what connotations (see p 7 of this paper) are being conveyed by the verbs belonging to the Swedish semantic field of ÄLSKA (a more limited sense), and by those belonging to the English counterpart, the semantic field of LOVE (a broader sense).

Further studies may be interested in comparing the results from this study with a corpus composed by more recent fiction texts. Since English has a significant influence on Swedish language, and this study shows that the use of verbs belonging to the semantic field of LOVE/ÄLSKA increases when translating fiction from English to Swedish, a study of newer texts might further explore whether or not this phenomenon is still increasing. Negation has not been the main focus of the analysis for this study, however, it might be another interesting topic to work on in the future. Finally, a future study might also be extended to study the semantic fields of HATE/HATA, in order to see if English has the same influence when translating the counterparts of LOVE/ÄLSKA.

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Appendix

Total results of the ESPC search

Oxford Dictionary, **LOVE**

1. make love to: embrace, cuddle, caress, fondle, have sexual intercourse

2. cherish, admire, adore, be in love with, lose one's heart to, worship, idolize, dote on, treasure, be infatuated with, think the world of, adulate, hold dear, like

3. delight in, take pleasure in, derive pleasure/enjoyment from, relish, be partial to, have a passion/preference/taste for, be attracted to, be captivated by, be fond of, like, enjoy, appreciate, value

4. fall in love

English original, LOVE

Word:	Verb:	Total:
love	25	127
loved	42	48
loves	2	4
loving	3	4
adore	-	-
treasure	-	-
cherish	2	-
prize	-	-
enjoy	52	-
like	132	1117
appreciate	13	-
savour	-	-
admire	40	58
be/fall in love	24	-
lose one's heart to	-	-
worship	1	-
idolize	1	-
dote on	1	-
be infatuated	-	-
think the world of	-	-
adulate	-	-
hold dear	-	-
delight in	-	-
take pleasure in	-	-
derive pleasure from	-	-

derive enjoyment from	-	-
be partial to	-	-
have a passion for	1	-
have a preference for	-	-
have a taste for	-	-
be attracted to	-	-
be captivated by	-	-
be fond of	17	-
value	5	18

English translation, LOVE

Word:	Verb:	Total:
love	15	88
loved	16	-
loves	6	-
loving	1	3
relish	-	-
adore	-	-
treasure	1	-
cherish	-	-
prize	1	-
enjoy	23	-
like	79	1079
appreciate	10	-
savour	-	-
admire	6	-
be/fall in love with	12	-
lose one's heart to	-	-
worship	2	-
idolize	-	-
dote on	-	-
be infatuated with	-	-
think the world of	-	-
adulate	-	-
hold dear	-	-
delight in	1	-
take pleasure in	-	-
derive pleasure from	-	-
derive enjoyment from	-	-
be partial to	-	-
have a passion for	1	-

have a preference for	-	-
have a taste for	-	-
be attracted to	3	-
be captivated by	1	-
be fond of	3	-
value	2	12

Nordstedts Svensk Synonymordbok, ÄLSKA

1. hänga fast vid, ha en svaghet/fäbless för, omfatta med kärlek, hysa ömma känslor för, vara intagen av/i, vara förälskad, förtjust, kär, hålla av, dyrka, avguda, förguda, tillbe(dja), åtrå, ha samlag med

Swedish original, ÄLSKA

Word:	Verb:	Total:
älska	6	-
älskade	9	10
älskar	17	22
älskat	3	-
hänga fast vid	-	-
ha en svaghet för	-	-
ha en fäbless för	-	-
omfatta med kärlek	-	-
hysa ömma känslor för	-	-
vara intagen av	-	-
vara intagen i	-	-
vara/bli förälskad/kär	6	13
vara/bli förtjust i	5	12
hålla av	1	-
dyrka	2	
avguda	-	-
förguda	-	-
tillbe	-	-
åtrå	-	2
ha samlag med	-	-
gilla	19	-
tycka om	39	50

Swedish translation, ÄLSKA

Word:	Verb:	Total:
älska	8	12
älskade	37	47
älskar	12	14
älskat	3	4
hänga fast vid	-	-
ha en svaghet för	1	-
ha en fäbless för	-	-
omfatta med kärlek	-	-
hysa ömma känslor för	-	-
vara intagen av	-	-
vara intagen i	-	-
vara bli förälskad/kär	18	46
vara/bli förtjust i	10	-
hålla av	1	-
dyrka	4	6
avguda	3	-
förguda	-	-
tillbe	-	-
åtrå	-	-
ha samlag med	2	-
tycka om	77	92
gilla	58	60