Register-specific interference in translation

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This paper discusses a quantitative corpus analysis of register-specific translator behaviour, in terms of the extent to which interference of the source language is admitted into the translation. Evert & Neumann (in press) provide corpus evidence for source language interference and differences depending on translation direction, arguably due to the prestige of the languages involved. However, they do not further differentiate the findings according to register, although there is growing evidence that translators are susceptible to register conventions (e.g. Delaere 2015). This is in line with assumptions about language being essentially organised into registers as subsystems that capture the probabilistically distributed features of a language (Halliday 1991). Accordingly, a feature may be highly likely to occur in one register and virtually blocked in another. These assumptions would predict that translators adapt to the specific situational context of both the source and target register and that they modulate the extent to which they allow the source language to interfere or adapt to register conventions in the target language. We will use the multivariate methodology developed by Diwersy et al. (2014) to examine the influence of register on interference. We use lexicogrammatical features capturing dimensions of register extracted semi-automatically from the English-German CroCo Corpus and from the Dutch Parallel Corpus so as to test whether the findings reflect more general patterns across language pairs. The findings will also shed light on more general claims about the role of register in language.

**References:**  
• Delaere, I. (2015): *Do translators walk the line?* University of Ghent.  