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Strategies of a “Translator” in Connection with the Search-Inference Framework

The purpose of my research was to explore the translation process of a language learner with special focus on his decisions, values, goals and strategies during translation. During the analysis of an in-depth interview and a cognitive map of my case-study (Érsek, 2017), the following important result emerged: the student applies his strategies to solve or prevent problems which arise in the course of his translation and possibly to achieve a sense of contentment by adapting to his goals/values (e.g. to the intentions of the author and to the demands of the target audience). The strategies of the participant might be divided into three units: searching (e.g. use of dictionaries), decisional (e.g. use of the most common word) and methodological (e.g. marking the interim solutions) strategies. Based on the analysis of these strategies I have concluded that a parallel can be drawn between the translation process of the investigated student and the so-called search-inference framework, which describes the process and stages of goal-directed thinking and decision making, proposed by Baron (2008). Even though this kind of segmentation of the translation strategies into clear-cut units cannot account for the whole operation, in the light of the search-inference framework it may contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex cognitive processes that underlie translation.