Constraints on translation of fictive motion in AVT

Proper rendering of meaning in the AVT requires using natural collocations. Since it is impossible to find disjunctive and exhaustive one-to-one correspondences between English and Polish verbs of motion (Kopecka, 2010), selecting appropriate verbs in some dynamic contexts is a challenging task for translators working with these languages. A specific problem area concerns fictive motion expressions (Langacker, 2005, 2008; Talmy, 1996, Talmy, 2000, Ch. 2; Waliński, in press), which are used to depict stationary spatial objects in terms of imagined movement along their spatial configuration. It has long been argued that the choice of motion verbs in fictive motion is subject to certain conceptual conditions (Matsumoto, 1996; Matlock, 2004). This study employs corpus-linguistics methodology to demonstrate that translating fictive motion expression between English and Polish is subject to a number of cognitive constraints, which dictate using specific motion verbs in translation.

References


