Translating fictive motion

Jacek T. Waliński

Institute of English Studies, University of Lodz

Proper rendering of meaning in translation 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 certain dynamic contexts may sometimes be a challenging task for translators working with these languages. A specific problem area concerns translating fictive motion (Langacker, 2005, 2008; Talmy, 1996, Talmy, 2000, Ch. 2; Waliński, 2014), which are used to depict stationary spatial objects in terms of imagined movement along their spatial configuration. It has long been established that the choice of motion verbs in fictive motion is not random (Matsumoto, 1996; Matlock, 2004). This study employs corpus-linguistics methodology to demonstrate that translating fictive motion between English and Polish is subject to at least three different but mutually related cognitive constraints, which dictate using specific verbs of motion for translation.

References


