# TRANSPOSITION: ACCOUNTING FOR SYNTACTIC SHIFTS IN TRANSLATION. A BILINGUAL EU CORPUS-**BASED STUDY**

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#### Abstract:

The present paper aims at tracking and analyzing the occurrences of transposition, also known as *shift*, in the official Romanian translations of EU legislation drafted in English. Since it involves a change at the syntactic level as regards the rendering of a translation unit from the source text (ST) into the target text (TT), transposition ranks among the most common procedures used in the translation process. By means of bilingual examples that we have selected from our corpus, we focus on discussing several relevant cases covering changes as to the number of the noun, the position of the adjective, the word class, the syntactic functions and the verb voice with a view to identifying their mandatory or optional nature. We also attempt to reveal the reasons that might have led to optional shifts, to suggest more functional alternatives where possible and provide a quantitative analysis establishing the frequency distributions of the transposition cases under discussion.

**Keywords**: transposition, syntactic changes, mandatory or optional shifts, translation.

#### Introduction

In this paper<sup>1</sup> we are going to discuss several significant cases of transposition, which comprise either mandatory or optional changes at the syntactic level, on the basis of bilingual English-Romanian examples.

Vinay and Dalbernet (1958/1995, 36) explain that transposition "involves replacing one word class with another without changing the meaning of the message" and they distinguish two types: obligatory transposition (e.g. "dès son lever – as soon as she got up", this English form being the only one possible) and optional transposition (e.g. "as soon as she

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got up" can be translated literally into French as "dès qu'elle s'est levée" or as a transposition "dès son lever").

Newmark (1988: 85) uses the term *transposition* alternatively with the term *shift* and defines this translation procedure as "involving a change in the grammar from SL to TL" which translators usually use intuitively. Gibová (2012, 36-37) considers it to be "an intentional and often unavoidable change that occurs in the translation from SL into TL", pointing out that *transpositions* are generally divided into *word-class* and *sentence-member transpositions*. *Word-class* (or *formal*) *transpositions* comprise the change of word-classes between SL and TL (e.g. the transposition of a verbal SL element into a nominal TL element), whereas *sentence-member* (or *functional*) *transpositions* trigger the change in the syntactic function of the target language (TL) element as compared to the source language (SL) element (e.g. the transposition between subject and object).

The bilingual examples provided in this paper have been selected from our larger bilingual corpus of EU legal documents<sup>2</sup> which has been used for our extended research study encompassing the analysis of several important translation procedures. In addition, the quantitative analysis presented at the end of the paper shows the frequency values of transposition among all translation procedures that we have dealt with in our larger research study.

## a) the change in the number of the noun

The first type of *transposition* that we have come across is represented by the change in the number of the noun which includes not only the change from singular to plural, as pointed out by Newmark (1988, 85), but also the change from plural to singular.

$sg. \rightarrow pl.$	
<b>1.</b> () the Commission fell short of its obligation	(), nu a fost respectată de
to examine objectively the <i>evidence</i> presented by	către Comisie obligația de a
that exporting producer (). [1]	examina în mod obiectiv
	dovezile care au fost
	prezentate de către
	producătorul-exportator ().
	[1]
2. Therefore, it is appropriate to require that the	Prin urmare, este necesar să se
applicant submit further information confirming	ceară solicitantului să
the results (). [5]	prezinte <i>informații</i>
	suplimentare pentru a
	confirma rezultatele (). [5]

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  available online: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html  $\,$ 

Nouns like "evidence" ("facts or signs that show clearly that something exists or is true", LDCE 2003, 628) and "information" ("facts or details that tell you something about a situation, etc.", LDCE 2003, 976), as shown in the first two examples given above, are uncountable in English and can only be used in the singular, even if they have a plural meaning. Their Romanian corresponding words are rendered in the plural, namely "dovezi" and "informații", since it would be inappropriate to use them in the singular in such cases where their plural form is required. We can say that this is an obligatory transposition triggered by the TL syntactic rules.

sg. $ ightarrow$ pl.		
3. Revenue and expenditure of the	Veniturile și cheltuielile agenției sunt în	
Agency shall be in balance. [3]	echilibru. [3]	

The words "revenue" and "expenditure" are usually used as uncountable nouns in English, although they may take a plural form, too. In (3), the fixed phrase "revenue and expenditure" is made up of the noun "revenue" in the singular, as it refers to income, together with the noun "expenditure" which is also used in the singular, since it indicates the amount of money spent. The Romanian accustomed phrase is "venituri şi cheltuieli" containing both nouns in the plural, which emphasizes the idea that there are more sources of income and more cases of expenses. We can also conclude that this is an obligatory transposition which occurs because of the TL rooted usage.

sg.  o pl.			
4. The Management Board shall	Consiliul de administrație numește		
appoint the Executive Director on the	directorul executiv pe baza <b>meritelor</b>		
basis of personal merit, experience in	personale, a experienței în domeniul		
the field of large-scale IT systems	sistemelor IT la scară largă (). [3]		
(). [3]			

In (4), the phrase "on the basis of personal *merit*" includes the noun "merit" in the singular, while the Romanian corresponding phrase "pe baza *meritelor* personale" contains the noun "*merit*" in the plural ("merite"). Although the use of the noun "merit" in the singular had not sounded inappropriate in Romanian, the common usage of this well-known phrase indicates that this noun should be used in the plural, which makes it be rather an obligatory *transposition*. Moreover, the plural form also stresses the idea that the respective person possesses more merits, not just one, making him/her eligible to be appointed Executive Director.

$sg. \rightarrow pl.$		
5. () there is no indication that	() nu există indicații care să confirme	
consolidating Silkem's data into	că includerea datelor provenite de la	
MAL's data would have made any	Silkem în cele prezentate de MAL ar fi	
difference. [6]	făcut ca datele finale să fie diferite. [6]	
<b>6.</b> (), the Authority presented its	(), autoritatea a prezentat Comisiei, la	
conclusion on indolylbutyric acid to	data de 3 septembrie 2010 [6], <i>concluziile</i>	
the Commission on 3 September 2010	la care a ajuns cu privire la acidul indolil	
[6]. [7]	butiric. [7]	

In (5), the noun "indication" is in the singular, being part of the construction "there is no + noun (sg)" being translated into Romanian by a noun in the plural ("indicatii"), which is part of the construction "nu există + noun (pl)". The translator could also have chosen another construction, similar to the English one "nu există nicio + noun (sg)", namely "nu există nicio indicatie". However, the construction containing the noun in the plural is shorter and more formal in Romanian. Therefore, this is can be regarded as an optional transposition, determined by the translator's personal choice. In the next example, the noun "conclusion" in the singular is translated by its corresponding noun in the plural ("concluzii"). In this case, the singular form of the ST noun may have a comprehensive meaning, referring to a set of conclusions. The translator's preference for the plural form may have the aim to emphasize the fact that there were more conclusions that were reached, not just one. The rendering of the noun in the singular would have been rather inappropriate in this case, so we can deem this case of *transposition* to be an obligatory one.

The following examples show that we have also encountered cases when SL nouns used in the plural are rendered by TL corresponding nouns in the singular.

$\mathbf{pl.}  o \mathbf{sg.}$		
7. Where necessary, the costs of production and SG&A expenses were adjusted () in constructing normal values. [6]	După caz, costurile de producție și cheltuielile administrative, de vânzare și alte cheltuieli generale au fost ajustate () pentru a determina valoarea	
9 The state of CHAPE EDIC	normală. [6]	
<b>8.</b> The <i>statutes</i> of SHARE-ERIC, as agreed between	Statutul SHARE-ERIC,	
its members, are annexed to this Decision. [8]	convenit între membrii	
	acestuia, se anexează prezentei decizii. [8]	

In (7), the term "normal values" pertaining to the field of economics that contains the noun "values" in the plural is rendered by its Romanian corresponding term, "valoare normală", which comprises the noun "valoare" in the singular. In the ST, the noun "values" in the plural stresses the fact that there are more "normal values" to be determined, whereas the phrase "valoare normală" has a general meaning covering all the normal values in question. This is an optional transposition, since the Romanian translator could also have rendered the TT term in the plural without any change in the meaning.

In (8), the ST noun "statutes" in the plural is translated as "statut" in the singular. The noun "statutes" used in the plural refers to "a formal rule of an institution or organization" (LDCE 2003, 1893). In Romanian, the singular and plural forms of the noun "statut" are used alternatively, so this is an optional transposition, since the translator could have chosen to render the noun in the plural ("Statutele SHARE-ERIC"), too.

$pl. \to sg.$			
9. () organisers are subject to	() organizatorii sunt supuși unor		
	sancțiuni corespunzătoare în cazul		
of this Regulation. [9]	<i>încălcării</i> prezentului regulament. [9]		
10. (), competences not conferred	(), orice competență care nu este		
upon the Union in the Treaties remain	atribuită Uniunii prin tratate aparține		
with the Member States. [10]	statelor membre. [10]		

In (9), the noun "infringements" in the plural is translated into Romanian as the noun "incălcare" in the singular which conveys a general meaning, namely covering all the possible situations in which the regulation is infringed. However, it could also have been used in the plural ("în cazul incălcărilor prezentului regulament") for emphasis. Therefore, this is also an optional transposition, even if the singular form sounds more natural in Romanian. In the next example, the noun "competences" in the plural is rendered as "orice competență" into the TT, namely as the noun "competență" in the singular preceded by the indefinite adjective "orice". This translation choice is more striking in pointing out that each and every competence "not conferred upon the Union in the Treaties remains with the Member States". Another possible translation solution would have been the use of this noun in the plural, which makes it another optional transposition.

# b) the change in the position of the adjective

The second type of transposition that we have identified in our bilingual corpus is represented by the change in the position of the adjective.

$[adj. + noun] \rightarrow [noun + adj.]$		
11. () the tasks relating to technical development and	() atribuțiile legate	
the preparation for the <i>operational management</i> of SIS II	de <i>dezvoltarea <b>tehnică</b></i>	
and VIS (). [3]	și pregătirea pentru	
	gestionarea	
	<i>operațională</i> a SIS II și	
	VIS (). [3]	
12. Specific requirements for accreditation should be	Trebuie elaborate și	
developed and approved in line with the provisions of	aprobate <i>cerințe</i>	
Regulation (). [11]	specifice pentru	
	acreditare, în	
	conformitate cu	
	dispozițiile	
	Regulamentului ().	
	[11]	
$[adj. + noun] \rightarrow [adj + noun]$		
13. In this respect it is noted that the Commission   În această privi		
revisited this point following <i>new developments</i> . [1]	precizează că, în urma	
	noilor evoluții,	
	Comisia a abordat din	
	nou acest aspect. [1]	
$[adj. + noun] \rightarrow [adj + noun] / [noun + noun]$		
<b>14.</b> In order to guarantee its <i>full autonomy</i> and	În scopul garantării	
independence, the Agency should be granted an	deplinei autonomii și	
autonomous budget with revenue from the general	independențe a	
budget of the European Union. [3]	agenției, aceasta ar	
	trebui să dispună de un buget autonom,	
	alimentat din bugetul	
	general al Uniunii	
	Europene. [3]	

As is well known, in English, the adjective is placed before the noun in most cases, whereas in Romanian it comes after the noun in most cases. Among the examples that we have analyzed, there are also exceptions in Romanian when the adjective is intentionally placed in front of the noun in order to be more prominent.

Therefore, as shown in the examples above, the predominant case is the one when the position of the adjective changes in translation according to the TL grammar rules, being *obligatory* transpositions ("technical development" – "dezvoltarea tehnică" and "operational management" – "gestionare operațională" in (11); "specific requirements" – "cerințe

specifice" in (12); "autonomous budget" – "buget autonom", "general budget" – "bugetul general" and "European Union" – "Uniunea Europenă" in (14)). However, we have also come across optional transpositions when the position of the adjective is preserved in front of the noun in Romanian ("new developments" – "noile evoluții" in (13); "full autonomy" – "deplina autonomie" in (14)) for stylistic reasons.

Further on, we take into account two main types of *transposition*, what Gibová (2012, 37) calls "word-class" (or formal) transpositions and "sentence-member" (or functional) transpositions. They correspond to "class shifts" and "structural shifts" according to Catford (1965/2000).

#### c) "word-class" transpositions

The predominant type of *transposition* identified in our bilingual corpus is represented by "word-class" *transpositions* (Gibová 2012), as words often change the class they belong to during translation. They are either obligatory or optional *transpositions*, whether they are imposed by the TL grammar rules or triggered by the translator's own preferences.

According to our analysis, the verb in the ST often changes into a noun and occasionally into an adjective in the TT.

•	$\mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$	
<b>15.</b> Having regard to Directive ()	având în vedere Directiva () de stabilire	
establishing a scheme for	a unui sistem de comercializare a cotelor	
greenhouse gas emission allowance	de emisie de gaze cu efect de seră în cadrul	
trading within the Community and	Comunității și <i>de modificare</i> a Directivei	
amending Council Directive	96/61/CE a Consiliului [1], în special	
96/61/EC [1], and in particular	articolul 10a. [12]	
Article 10a thereof. [12]		
<b>16.</b> <i>Improving</i> road safety is a prime	Îmbunătățirea siguranței rutiere	
objective of the Union's transport	reprezintă un obiectiv central al politicii	
policy. [13]	Uniunii în domeniul transporturilor. [13]	

In examples (15) and (16), we notice that the *-ing* verbs in the ST are rendered into Romanian either by prepositional noun phrases or by a noun phrase made up of one noun. The present participles "*establishing*" and "*amending*", which act as post-modifiers of the noun "Directive" in (15), are each translated by prepositional noun phrases containing a noun preceded by the preposition "de" ("*de stabilire*" and "*de modificare*"). This translation choice has been preferred to a subordinate relative clause in Romanian ("care stabileṣte/modifică"), thus being an optional *transposition*. The gerund "*improving*" in (16) is rendered as the noun "*îmbunătățirea*", being an obligatory *transposition* as it is the only suitable translation solution in this case.

$V \rightarrow N$			
17. it was considered necessary to	s-a considerat necesară îmbunătățirea		
further <i>refine</i> the definition of rolls	definiției rulourilor adecvate pentru		
suitable for use in web-fed printing.	utilizarea în procesul de tipărire cu hârtie în		
_[1]	sul. [1]		
<b>18.</b> this criterion <i>to define</i> rolls	acest criteriu de definire a rulourilor		
suitable for use in web-fed printing	adecvate pentru utilizarea în procesul de		
was abandoned. [1]	tipărire cu hârtie în sul a fost eliminat. [1]		

Examples (17) and (18) show that the verbs in the infinitive, "to refine" and "to define", are also translated either by a noun or by a prepositional noun phrase, respectively. The infinitive "to refine", in (17), is rendered as the noun "îmbunătățirea", although the use of the verb in the Romanian conjunctive mood could also have been suitable ("s-a considerat necesar să se îmbunătățească definiția rulourilor"). The infinitive "to define" acting as post-modifier of the noun "criterion" in (18) is translated as the prepositional noun phrase "de definire" which is made up of the noun "definire" preceded by the preposition "de". It could also have been rendered by a relative clause ("acest criteriu care definește rulourilor adecvate"). Since the use of a relative clause would have been possible in both examples, we can conclude that these represent cases of optional transpositions. However, the use of nouns provides shorter and even more formal translation versions.

$V \rightarrow N$			
19. The concept of "overriding	Conceptul de "motive imperative de		
reasons of general interest" () has	interes general" () a fost elaborat de		
been developed by the Court of	către Curtea de Justiție în jurisprudența sa		
Justice in its case-law in relation to	to   în legătură cu articolele 49 și 56 din TFUE		
Articles 49 and 56 TFEU and may	ay   și ar putea evolua <i>în continuare</i> . [14]		
continue to evolve. [14]			

In (19), the verb "continue" is rendered by the prepositional noun phrase "în continuare" which contains the noun "continuare" preceded by the preposition "în". The translator could have chosen to preserve the verb in the TT and apply a literal translation ("și ar putea continua să evolueze"), which makes it an optional transposition. However, the official version is really felicitous, being a more elegant manner of expression in the TL.

$V \rightarrow Adj$					
20. it shall be clarified whether the test	trebuie	clarificat	dacă	materialul	de
material <i>conforms</i> to the proposed or	testare	este co	onform	specifica	ției
existing specification. [15]	propuse	sau existe	nte. [1:	5]	

Example (20) displays the ST verb "conforms" rendered as the verb phrase "este conform" into Romanian, being made up of the copula verb "to

be" followed by the adjective "conform". This translation choice is better than the one in which the same verb is used in the TT ("materialul de testare *se conformează* specificației") which would sound rather forced as the verb "a se conforma" is usually used in Romanian when referring to people. Therefore, we can consider this to be an obligatory *transposition*.

According to our study, the noun in the ST sometimes changes into an adjective or a verb in the TT.

#### $N \rightarrow Adi$

**21.** Member States shall ensure that each operator also submits a *methodology report* containing, in particular, a description of the installation, (...). [12]

Statele membre se asigură că fiecare operator transmite, de asemenea, un *raport metodologic*, care conține, în special, o descriere a instalației, (...).[12]

In (21), the noun "methodology", which is part of the nominal collocation "methodology report", is translated as the adjective "metodologic", being an obligatory transposition as the corresponding Romanian collocation is "raport metodologic". In the noun phrase "methodology report", which is represented by two nouns (N+N), the first noun "methodology" functions as a pre-modifier of the head noun "report". Such sequences are usually rendered into Romanian by means of a noun phrase made up of a noun and an adjective (N+Adj: "raport metodologic") or a noun followed by a prepositional noun phrase in other situations ("raport de evaluare" – "evaluation report").

#### $N \rightarrow V$

**22.** After determination of the final annual amount for all incumbent installations in their territory, Member States shall submit (...). [12]

După ce determină cantitatea anuală finală pentru toate instalațiile autorizate de pe teritoriul lor, statele membre transmit (...). [12]

In (22), the noun "determination" becomes a verb in Romanian, as this necessary change is characterized by the TL naturalness of expression. Actually, the prepositional noun phrase in English (preposition "after" followed by the noun "determination") functioning as an adverbial modifier of time is expanded into an adverbial clause of time introduced by the subordinating conjunction "după ce" followed by the verb "determină" in Romanian. If the translator had preserved the noun "determinare", then the noun "cantitate" and the adjectives "anual" and "final" that come after it would have been in the genitive case, which would have sounded rather forced ("după determinarea cantității anuale finale").

As regards the adjective in the ST, it sometimes changes into a noun or a verb in the TT

$\mathbf{Adj} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$				
<b>23.</b> That application also complies with the remaining <i>substantive</i> and <i>procedural</i> requirements (). [16]	Cererea este conformă, de asemenea, cu celelalte <i>cerințe de fond</i> și <i>de procedură</i> (). [16]			
Adj→V				
<b>24.</b> The Executive Director <i>shall be accountable</i> to the Management Board. [3]	Directorul executiv <i>răspunde</i> în fața consiliului de administrație. [3]			

In (23), the adjectives "substantive" and "procedural" functioning as pre-modifiers of the noun "requirements" are rendered as prepositional noun phrases into the TT, each containing a noun preceded by the preposition "de" ("de fond" and "de procedură"). These constructions are suitable for the legal style. The formal adjective "substantive" refers to "things that are important or real" (LDCE 2003, 1935), being translated as "substanțial, semnificativ, de fond" (Voiculescu 2007, 162) in legal contexts. The formal adjective "procedural" means "connected with a procedure, especially in a law court" (LDCE 2003, 1522), being rendered either as "procedural" or "de procedură" in Romanian. However, another translation solution would have been the use of the corresponding adjectives "cerințe substanțiale și procedurale". We can consider them to be obligatory transpositions due to language register constraints.

In (24), the adjective "accountable" is changed into the verb "răspunde" in the Romanian translation. This is an optional transposition, as the corresponding adjective "răspunzător" and the copula verb "a fi" ("este răspunzător în fața") could also have been preserved in the TT. Yet, in such sentence type, the verbal predicate expressed by the verb "răspunde" is more common than the nominal predicate "este răspunzător". The use of the verb "răspunde" in the present tense succeeds in conveying the same degree of obligation as the sequence "shall be accountable".

The adverb in the ST is often rendered as an adjective (part of a prepositional phrase) and occasionally as a verb in the TT.

$\mathbf{AdV} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}$			
<b>25.</b> (), the companies whose web	(), societățile ale căror rulouri pentru		
rolls were <i>allegedly</i> tested could not	tipărirea cu hârtie în sul se presupune că		
respond to the conclusions of the	au fost testate nu au putut reacționa la		
test. [1]	constatările testului. [1]		
	'a- a a a		

In (25), we can see that the SL formal adverb "allegedly" is rendered as the TL verb "se presupune" in the reflexive-passive form in order to convey

the idea of supposition. As the equivalent word/phrases of "allegedly" in Romanian belong to the informal and even colloquial vocabulary ("vorba vine", "pare-se", "chipurile"), it would have been totally inappropriate to use them here. Consequently, this is an obligatory *transposition* since the only solution is to render the ST adverb by the verb "a se presupune" so as to comply with the formal register requirements.

#### $Adv \rightarrow Adj$

**26.** Within the regional ceilings, the EIB shall *progressively* ensure a balanced country distribution (...). [2]

În cadrul plafoanelor regionale, BEI asigură *în mod progresiv* o distribuire echilibrată pe țări, (...). [2]

#### $Adv \rightarrow Adj // V \rightarrow N$

**27.** Every citizen of the Union shall have the right to *move* and *reside freely* within the territory of the Member States, (...). [10]

Orice cetățean al Uniunii are dreptul de *liberă circulație* și de *ședere* pe teritoriul statelor membre, (...). [10]

In (26), the adverb "progressively" is translated into Romanian as the prepositional noun phrase "în mod progresiv" which emphasizes the manner in which the action is done. It is an obligatory transposition, as it is triggered by the TL naturalness and grammar constraints. In the last example, (27), the adverb "freely" is rendered as the adjective "liberă" into Romanian, since the verbs "move" and "reside" are also changed into the nouns "circulație" and "ședere" (V+Adv changes into Adj+N). This can be considered an optional transposition because another translation solution would have been the use of the prepositional phrase "în mod liber" after the verbs "a circula" and "a locui" ("Orice cetățean al Uniunii are dreptul de a circula și de a locui în mod liber pe teritoriul statelor membre"). We also remark the stressed position of the adjective "liberă" before the nouns "circulație" and "ședere" in the TT.

## d) "sentence-member" transpositions

Furthermore, we are going to discuss some cases of "sentence-member" (or functional) *transpositions* (Gibová 2012) that we have commonly encountered in our bilingual corpus under analysis. They involve the change in the syntactic function of the ST unit when rendered into the TT, being often triggered by various "word-class" transpositions. Most of them can be deemed as obligatory *transpositions*, being determined by the TL grammar and naturalness constraints.

#### $S \rightarrow PO$ of agent

# **28.** *Member States* shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main provisions of national law (...). [17]

Comisiei îi sunt comunicate de către statele membre textele principalelor dispoziții de drept intern (...). [17]

#### $S \rightarrow DO$

**29.** *The methods* of making such reference shall be laid down by the Member States. [17]

Statele membre prevăd metodele de efectuare a unei astfel de trimiteri. [17]

#### $S \rightarrow Adv \mod of manner$

**30.** *A motion*, specifying the procedure and timeframe, if approved by the Council by a two thirds majority, can wind up the Organisation, (...). [8]

Organizația poate fi lichidată *printr-o moțiune* care să precizeze procedura și calendarul, dacă aceasta este aprobată de consiliu cu o majoritate de două treimi din voturi, (...). [8]

In example (28), the subject "Member States" becomes a prepositional object of agent in the Romanian translation ("de către statele membre"). The noun "comisiei" is placed at the beginning of the sentence in order to point out the recipient of the action. This choice enables the translator to avoid a possible cacophony caused by using the noun "statele membre" with subject function: "Statele membre comunică Comisiei (...)".

In (29), the noun phrase "the methods" functioning as subject is rendered as the noun phrase "metodele" functioning as direct object. In this way, the noun phrase "statele membre" becomes the subject in the TT having a prominent initial position. Actually, this shift is determined by the change from passive voice to active voice in the translation. In the next example, the ST subject "a motion" is rendered by the TT adverbial modifier of manner "printr-o moțiune" showing the manner in which the organization can be wound up. This translation solution is far better than the literal translation preserving the English structure ("O moțiune (...) poate lichida Organizația") which is rather unnatural in Romanian.

#### Adv mod of manner → Attribute

**30.** A mechanism should be established to ensure that the list of travel documents is *constantly updated*. [13]

Ar trebui instituit un mecanism care să asigure actualizarea constantă a listei documentelor de călătorie. [13]

#### Adv mod of manner $\rightarrow$ S

**31.** According to the two parties, Article 12(5) TRLIS is exceptional *in nature* because the Spanish tax system, (...), does not allow any amortisation (...). [18]

Potrivit celor două părți, *natura* articolului 12 alineatul (5) din TRLIS este excepțională deoarece sistemul fiscal spaniol, (...), nu permite nicio amortizare (...). [18]

Example (30) shows the past participle "updated" undergoing a nominalization into "actualizare" in the TT, which brings about a change in the word-class of modifiers: from the adverb "constantly" to the adjective "constantă". Therefore, the adverbial modifier of manner "constantly" is rendered as the attribute "constantă" in terms of "sentence-member" transposition. The translator could have chosen to keep the same ST structure ("Ar trebui instituit un mecanism care să asigure că lista documentelor de călătorie este actualizată constant") by preserving the adverbial modifier of manner, but the official translation version is better as it sounds more natural and elegant in Romanian. In example (31), the prepositional noun phrase "in nature" functioning as adverbial modifier of manner is translated into Romanian as the noun phrase "natura" being the subject of the sentence. This is an optional transposition because the use of the noun "caracter", instead of "natura", performing the function of direct object ("articolul...are caracter excepțional") would have been another suitable translation choice.

#### e) the change in the verb voice

Newmark (1988, 89) considers "active for passive (and vice versa)" to be a common type of *transposition* that is mandatory when there are no passive forms in the TL and advisable when a reflexive form is preferred to a passive, a fact which happens in the Romance languages.

As regards this type of *transposition*, we have identified four cases in our bilingual corpus: the change from active voice into passive voice, from passive voice into active voice, from passive voice into reflexive-passive and from an impersonal construction into active voice. These represent both cases of obligatory *transpositions*, determined not only by the TL naturalness and grammar constraints but also by the formal register constraints, and cases of optional *transpositions*. This type of *transposition* represented by the change in the verb voice accounts for numerous examples in our bilingual corpus.

$ \underline{\hspace{1cm}} passive \to reflexive\text{-}passive $				
<b>32.</b> Citizenship of the Union <i>is</i> hereby	Se instituie cetățenia Uniunii. [20]			
established. [20]				
33. The list of travel documents shall be	Lista documentelor de călătorie se			
divided into three parts. [9]	<i>împarte</i> în trei părți. [9]			

As indicated by Wales (2001, 288-289), in an unmarked active sentence, the canonical distribution of information begins with *given information* and ends with *new*, which is highlighted by *end focus*. The subject represents the *theme* and the focus falls on the object. In the passive sentence, the affected object, which represents the grammatical subject, is thematized and the focus falls on the *agent*, which is expressed by a prepositional phrase. In Romanian, the "reflexive-passive" form is extremely used in order to indicate that "the action is fulfilled by someone else than the grammatical subject" (Coteanu 1982, 171).

In the first two examples, (32) and (33), in the passive sentences, the affected objects "citizenship of the Union" and "the list of travel documents", respectively, are thematized, but the agents of the actions are not expressed. Therefore, the passive voice in the ST ("is established" and "shall be divided") is rendered by the reflexive-passive ("se instituie" and "se împarte") into Romanian, which also triggers the omission of the agents. The use of the passive voice in the TT would not have been suitable in these cases, so the choice of the reflexive-passive forms, which are quite frequent in Romanian, gives naturalness of expression. In fact, the passive voice in the ST has a formulaic value which is best conveyed by the reflexive-passive form in the TT.

$passive \to active$				
<b>34.</b> Once a proposed citizens'	După înregistrarea propunerii de			
initiative is registered, statements of	inițiativă cetățenească, organizatorii pot			
support from citizens may be	colecta declarațiile de susținere din partea			
<i>collected</i> by the organisers. [19]	cetățenilor. [19]			
active → passive				
<b>35.</b> It <i>communicated</i> that report to the	Raportul respectiv a fost comunicat			
European Food Safety Authority	Autorității Europene pentru Siguranța			
(hereinafter "the Authority") and to	Alimentară (denumită în continuare			
the Commission. [3]	"autoritatea") și Comisiei. [3]			
	•			

In example (34), in the passive sentence, the affected object "statements of support", which is the grammatical subject, is thematized and the focus falls on the agent, namely on the prepositional phrase "by the organizers". We can see that the passive voice ("may be collected") is changed into the active voice ("pot colecta") in Romanian, thus the focus

falling on the object, which is represented by the noun phrase "declarațiile de susținere". Yet, even though this translation option is desirable, the passive voice could have been preserved in the translation ("declarațiile de susținere din partea cetățenilor *pot fi colectate* de către organizatori").

On the other hand, in (35), in the active sentence, the pronoun "it" is the theme and the focus falls on the object "that report". The active voice ("it communicated") in the ST is changed into the passive voice ("a fost comunicat") in the TT, the agent being omitted in the Romanian translation. The pronoun "it" refers back to "Sweden" in the larger context, so the Romanian translator could have preserved the active voice, ("aceasta a comunicat raportul respectiv..."), in which the pronoun "aceasta" has an anaphoric function and stands for the proper noun "Suedia" found in the previous sentence. However, the use of the passive voice and the omission of the agent is a more formal choice.

#### impers constr $\rightarrow$ active

**36.** It has appeared from the various examinations made that plant protection products containing indolylbutyric acid may be expected to satisfy, in general, the requirements laid down in Article 5(1) (...). [17]

Diferitele examinări efectuate au arătat că produsele de protecție a plantelor care conțin acid indolil butiric pot îndeplini, în general, cerințele prevăzute la articolul 5 alineatul (1) (...). [17]

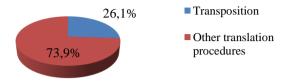
In (36), we can notice the impersonal construction made up of the introductory pronoun "it" followed by the copula-like verb "appear" ("It has appeared..."). This pronoun has a cataphoric reference by anticipating the extraposed subject clause introduced by the conjunction "that". The translator has chosen to use the subject "examinări" together with the verb "au arătat" in the active voice, although the reflexive-passive form would have preserved the impersonal touch ("S-a arătat, din diferitele examinări efectuate, că produsele de protecție a plantelor...").

#### **Conclusions**

Our quantitative analysis has revealed that *transposition* is the most frequently used translation procedure in our bilingual corpus of EU legal documents, being identified with a frequency value of approx. 26.1% of all translation procedures investigated in our extended research study.

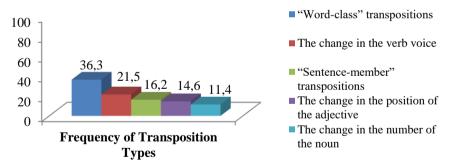
Translation procedure	Number of occurrences	Frequency (%)
Transposition	1324	26.1

# Frequency of Translation Procedures in the Bilingual Corpus under Analysis



Transposition Types	Number of	Frequency (%)
	occurences	
"Word-class" transpositions	480	36.3
The change in the verb voice	284	21.5
"Sentence-member" transpositions	214	16.2
The change in the position of the adjective	193	14.6
The change in the number of the noun	150	11.4

The predominant type is represented by "word-class" transpositions, as words often change their class from the ST into the TT during the process of translation, having a frequency of approx. 36.3% of all identified types of *transpositions*, whereas the last position is occupied by "the change in the number of the noun", reaching a frequency value of approx. 11.4% of all identified *transpositions*.



Being a highly important translation procedure, transposition is concerned with syntactic shifts that occur during the translation process. Our analysis has revealed that the types of transposition under discussion can be interpreted either as mandatory or optional. Mandatory transpositions come into play whenever the translator has no choice but to comply with the target language (TL) grammar rules, common usage or naturalness requirements, as well as with formal or legal register norms. On the other hand, optional

transpositions have proved to encompass the translator's preferences out of a series of possible suitable translation solutions that he/she considers to be the most appropriate.

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- [6]. Council Implementing Regulation (EU) No 464/2011 of 11 May 2011.
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- [8]. 2011/166/EU: Commission Decision of 17 March 2011.
- [9]. Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011
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- [11]. Commission Regulation (EU) No 445/2011 of 10 May 2011.
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