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Contrastive Methods

Contrastive linguistics is conceived here as primarily concerned with the practical purpose of making a second language more easily accessible to speakers of another language. Conceived in this way, contrastive linguistics is applied comparative descriptive linguistics. Comparative descriptive linguistics sets up a set of rigorous criteria and tries to find out what the results are if the criteria are applied to two or more languages, and the results are utilized in describing the languages concerned in common terms. Contrastive linguistics is concerned with only two languages at a time and the results arrived at are turned to the practical purpose of compiling a grammar, dictionary, reader and the like for speakers of one language wishing to learn another language; the languages contrasted do not necessarily have to be described in the same way though the same descriptive method be applied. There are several possible ways of approaching the problem of contrastive research of two languages. Some of them are discussed in this essay, and one of them is illustrated practically by the comparison of the classes of possessive adjectives (personal deictics) in English and Serbo-Croatian.

Contrastive relationship can be explored by means of a kind of translation process. This means that there is a language from which translation is done and another language into which it is done. Translation in the usual sense of the word is always unidirectional — from Source Language (SL) into Target Language (TL), which means that the substitution of the text is also unidirectional — the SL text is given, the equivalent TL text has to be determined. Translation equivalence is set up for each individual SL text without regard whether the items occurring in that text will have the same translation equivalents if they occur in another text. In other words, in total translation a TL text equivalently replacing

a SL text will not necessarily produce the original SL text in backtranslation. Contrastive approach, to be of any value, must establish such translation equivalence as will cover the largest possible number of texts and which in backtranslation will produce the original SL text.

The failure of total translation to produce the original text in backtranslation shows only that there is often more than one equivalent in both directions depending on the level, category, etc., at which translation is done. Thus the English sentence

He worked a lot but achieved nothing

can be rendered into Serbo-Croatian as

Radio je mnogo ali nije postigao ništa

(wehere p o s t i g a o is a lexical item belonging to a set other than than the one of r a d i o) or

Radio je mnogo ali nije uradio ništa

(where the lexical item u r a d i o has nearly the same collocational range as r a d i o from which it differs only in aspect).

This example shows two possibilities of establishing translation equivalence: at the lexical level where the translation equivalent has approximately the same collocational range as the SL item, and at the grammatical level where the contextual meaning of the SL item expressed by lexical means has as its equivalent a TL grammatical feature (perfectivity) combined with a lexical item with non-equivalent contextual meaning. The possibility of several translation equivalents may be due to the rank at which translation is done. At the group rank a s m a l l b o y has as its Serbo-Croatian equivalent m a l e n d j e č a k (epithet-head) but at the clause rank the equivalent may well be d j e č a č i ć (diminutive of d j e č a k). This one-to-many equivalence is an advantage of total translation but is a serious shortcoming from contrastive point of view. The multiple equivalance is due to the fact that only the SL is taken as given, whereas the TL is considered as something to be created, according to the closest possible c o n t e x t u a l equivalance, anew for every SL text.

It is obvious that for contrastive purposes translation in both directions has always to produce the same texts, which means that both the SL text and the TL text must be considered as given. There are two basic ways in which they can be given, and the ways in fact represent two translation contrastive methods discussed in this essay.

We can select a body of Language One items and compare them with a corresponding body of Language Two items; or we can translate the selected body of Language One items and then take all the resulting aquivalents in Language Two as the new SL text and define the conditions required for the

items of the new SL to yield the original Language One text. As the purpose of contrastive linguistics is to produce a practical result, for instance an English grammar for the speakers of Serbo-Croatian, the English text is the ultimate aim of the research, and it is in this sense that English is the Target Language and Serbo-Croatian the Source Language. As the meaning of the terms "Source Language" and "Target Language" as used here is essentially different from the meaning they have in translation theory, they will be used only when the reference is to translation theory; otherwise, for the purposes of contrastivity, the terms Native Language (NL) and Foreign Language (FL) will be employed.

The contrasting process can be conceived in a number of ways. The most obvious seems to be to confront a NL category with an equivalent FL category, for instance two classes. Let us suppose that we have taken as given a NL closed class with the terms *A, B, C,* and FL formally corresponding class containing the terms *a, b, c.* The NL term *A* may have as its FL equivalent the terms *a, b;* the term *B* may have *c,* but the NL term *C* may have as its FL equivalent a term *d* from a different class. If the translation proceeds from FL to NL, *d* will have as its equivalent a term from another class. If the translation goes from NL to FL, the term *d* will be ignored. If, for instance, the English class of possessive adjectives is taken as given, in Serbo-Croatian it will have as translation equivalents possessive adjectives, the reflexive-possessive adjective, personal pronouns, the reflexive pronoun, etc. If the system of possessive adjectives is taken as given in Serbo-Croatian, the items outside the system also expressing the same idea and often used instead of possessive adjectives will be omittted, and the possessive use of Serbo-Croatian items other than possessive adjectives will not be mentioned, although it is quite frequent in Serbo--Croatian, particularly in certain registers. To avoid this it would be necessary to study the results of translations both from English into Serbo-Croatian and from Serbo-Croatian into English which would be rather complicated because of the difficulties, discussed below, of establishing formally corresponding categories in the two languages; and the result in any case would not be category-to-category contrasting.

Translation methods, of course, entail the use of the criterion of contextual meaning because the only way to establish even formal correspondence between two systems is to establish that they have certain situational features in common. The attempt to avoid the use of contextual meaning by saying that formal correspondence exists when two categories play approximately the same role in the economy of the two languages is just another way of saying that they have similar contextual

meanings. It would be very desirable if a method of conctrastive research could be devised which would reduce to a minimum the necessity of relying on contextual meaning in contrasting two languages.

There are also other complications to this category-to--category approach. Some of them are: how can we know that what we are contrasting are equivalent categories; how do we know that in both languages we are dealing with, say, closed systems; how do we know that in both languages we have collected all the terms of the system? The setting up of systems is to a considerable extant an intuitive process, based largely on traditional classifications. It does not matter so much if our intuition is wrong or our system is not complete when we are describing one language, because the distinction between closed systems and open sets is not very clear anyway and when we assign an item to a system rather than to an open set we in fact decide what method we are going to employ in describing that item and not necessarily that the method is the only one by which it can be described: a lexical item can be described by grammatical methods, and the other way round. To our mind, the term "system" itself is ambiguous. The number system is defined exclusively by meaning (s h e e p singular and plural, t e a m singular and plural, p h y s i c s singular, etc.). The system of personal pronouns, on the other hand, is made up of intuitively selected items vaguely felt as belonging together, mostly because of their exponence of the system of persons. To give the name of system to personal pronouns is the same as giving the name of plural to the "plural" morphemes. They are plural because they in most cases expound the term "plural" of the number system, although they may also expound the term "singular". The difference between the two types of systems, the systems of exponents and the systems of meanings expounded, has been realized and the way out has been sought in the notion of a "closed class" which, of course, is no solution. In "closed system" the emphasis in on "closed", and when "system" is defined what it actually defined is the "closed" part; therefore a "closed class" is in fact a system.

If two languages that should be contrasted on the basis of corresponding categories are involved the outcome would be that we will be comparing the results of our intuition and not necessarily items occupying "the 'same' place in the 'economy'" of two languages (J. C. Catford, *A Linguistic Theory of Translation,* Oxford University Press, London, 1965, p. 27. The translation theory as adopted here is the one advanced in this very interesting book), with the consequence that no useful contrastive relationship will result. The difference between open sets and closed systems in *The Linguistic Sciences*

and Language Teaching (M. A. K. Halliday, Angus McIntosh, Peter Strevens; Longmans, London, 1964, p. 21) is illustrated by the example "He was sitting there on the . . ." where "certain items — chair, settee, bench, stool and so on — are quite likely to follow, but very many others are perfectly possible, and probably no two poeple would agree on the hundred most likely items" and therefore the conclusion is that items coming after t h e belong to an open set. But the same is true if the beginning of the sentence is indicated by dots: ". . . was sitting there on the chair" where h e does not necessarily have to be substituted by a personal pronoun. We know that there is a closed system (or class) of personal pronouns, because we have, intuitively or arbitrarily, sep up a closed system of persons deciding that the "speaker" is one person, "the person addressed" another, etc. But what is there, according to this criterion, to prevent us from including n o b o d y along with h e, s h e, i t as an exponent of "the person or thing spoken about"? Or to give a different formal meaning to the system of persons by introducing the all-person term o n e? Or to have a three--term number system in English: one book — both books — three books?, etc. The only reason we often assign an item to a system is its vast range of collocation: is the lexical item e v e r y m o t h e r ' s s o n a term in the system of indefinite pronouns or not? We are likely to include it among indefinite pronouns because of its "indefiniteness" and the range of collocations which is as vague as it is with indefinite pronouns. (In fact, Curme includes it among indefinite pronouns.)

The category-to-category method, on the other hand, allows both the NL and the FL materials to be presented in a systematic manner. Thus, for instance, the class of personal pronouns will be treated simultaneously in both languages. Both the FL and the NL texts will be stated (hoping that they are formally equivalent). The NL will be the SL and the NL conditions will be stated under which a selected NL item has as its translation equilavent a selected FL item, like this:

$$\longrightarrow (\text{NL} \wedge A \text{ cond. } x) \ (\text{FL } a).$$

Another possible method, termed here "backtranslation mehod", conceives the FL as given, that is we select a body of grammatical items in the FL and these items become the text of the Source Language. The NL translation equivalents are then established. Now the NL translation equivalents become the Source Language text and they are translated into FL (now TL), but the choise of translation equivalents in FL is no longer free: they are selected only from among the possibilities contained in the originally selected body of FL formal items.

The process could be represented like this:

Step	SL	Selected Items	TL	Equivalents
1	FL	a, b, c	NL	A, B, C, D
2	NL	A, B, C, D	FL	a, b, c

The next step is to determine the conditions under which each of the possible translation equivalents will yield one of the selected FL items in backtraslation. Suppose we have decided that a system of FL contains the terms {a, b, c, }. The actual use of the terms is given in the form of conditional statements: if condition *x* then term *a*, etc., this forming the FL text. For each condition and its exponence is/are found the NL equivalent(s), and in the final form the conditional statements are no longer expressed in reference to the conditions obtaining in the FL but to those existing in NL: if in NL item *A* and condition *x* then in FL item *a*.

The translation process goes in fact along these lines: a term of the FL system is stated. The term is translated into NL yielding all the possible translation equivalents, regardless of whether the equivalents belong to the formally coresponding system or not.[1] The NL translation equivalents now become SL and conditioned FL equivalents are stated, like this:

1. → (FL ∧ term *a* condition *x*) (NL ∨ *A, B, C*)
2. → (NL ∧ item *A* condition *y*) (FL *a*)
   → (NL ∧ item *B* condition *w*) (FL *a*)
   → (NL ∧ item *C* condition *z*) (FL *a*)

The FL text consists of stretches of language with a number of unrelated contextual meanings but selected in such a way that all contain formal items that are for some reason believed to belong together. It can be a system, class, structure or unit. These FL texts are translated into NL. The translation is, in principle, of the restricted type, that is only such translation equivalents are taken into consideration as belong to the level determined in advance (grammatical or lexical). The translation departing from the determined level is accepted only if translation equivalence cannot be established at the determined level. The translation is not bounded, that is the translation equivalents not belonging to a system, class, etc., formally equivalent to a FL system, class, etc., are also accepted. When translating the NL text (resulting from the FL text) the translation is bounded, that is only such translation equivalents are

[1] A change of level will occasionally be inevitable. In such cases it will be necessary to state very precisely the conditions under which it happens and what must always results from the change. Otherwise the door will be opened for a free change of levels resulting in possible pairs of translation equivalents, each at a different level. The contrasts of levels and ranks will constitute a separate stage of contrastive research.

accepted as contain the items originally selected. If, for instance, an item of the English (E) class of possessive adjectives yields as its Serbo-Croatian (SC) equivalents zero and a possessive adjective, in backtranslation we are not interested in any other E equivalents but those belonging to the class of possessive adjectives. The E sentence h e r e s p e c t s h i s m o t h e r has as SC translation equivalents p o š t u j e s v o j u m a j k u and p o š t u j e ∅ m a j k u. In backtranslation p o š t u j e ∅ m a j k u could well be h e r e s p e c t s t h e m o t h e r where t h e is used to give a generic meaning to the noun m o t h e r. We would not accept t h e as an equivalent of SC zero because it is not an item of the E class of possessive adjectives, that is: it is not contained among the originally selected E items.

The translation of other items in the texts containing the selected items is of considerable importance. The most reliable results will be obtained if the translations are of the word--for-word type (word-bound). If this is not possible, group--bound translations are fairly reliable, even where no real translation can be made because of collocational or some other restrictions. Translations at clause and sentence ranks cannot be taken into consideration. Examples:

h e is m y brother ~ on je m o j brat
//what / is / the use of y o u r going there / ~ // kakva / je / korist od t v o g odlaženja tamo //

The translation of the qualifier in some situations should be o d t v o g i d e n j a t a m o, which is not acceptable because the gerund i d e n j e is not grammatical. In this case instead of o d t v o g i d e n j a t a m o we wil have the clause d a i d e š t a m o which for the purpose of contrasting SC and E classes of possessives is useless, although it will be taken into consideration when gerunds are contrasted in the two languages.

The advantage of this method is that a comparison could be drawn also between languages not possessing the same categories. If the contrasted languages possess equivalent formal categories, the equivalent category in the NL will emerge in the form of the statistically most frequent unconditioned translation equivalent, together with statistically less frequent items belonging to other categories or classes.

If this method is adopted we dispense with the necessity of determining in advance what the corresponding category in the NL is, if there is one it will of itself emerge; it is not necessary to decide whether we have to deal with closed systems or open sets, and we are not likely to ignore a relevant fact in the NL.

As we intend to employ this "backtranslation" method in discussing the use of possessive adjectives in English through

their translation equivalents in Serbo-Croatian, it seems advisable to review the method.

The FL material consists of texts containing the selected items *a*, *b* and *c*, which for our purpose constitute a closed system. The conditions for the use of the items in FL are given in the form → condition *x* item *a*, etc. NL translation equivalent(s) is/are found for each conditional statement: (FL ∧ cond. *x* item *a*) (NL ∨ item *A* item *B*). Now the NL items *A* and *B* become the SL, and the FL conditioned translation equivalents are stated in the form → (NL ∧ item *A* cond. *x*) (FL item *a*), → (NL ∧ item *B* cond. *y*) (FL item *a*), etc.

For certain purpose it may be necessary not only to give backtraslation rules for the NL items resulting from the translation from FL but also to find out what happens in translation into FL with NL items not resulting from the translation from FL but which items are used in NL in the same way as those that have resulted from the translation from FL. In that case the procedure is the following. If the FL items have yielded as the most frequent NL equivalents the items *A* and *B* we can conclude that these items have the same place in the NL economy as they have in that of FL. They are now studied in the NL and their use is stated in the form of conditions of the type → cond. *x* item *A*, → cond. *y* item *B*. The results of this are compared with NL equivalents yielded by the conditioned translation of the FL text. The comparison reveals uses in NL not appearing in the conditioned translations from FL. They are translated into FL and treated in the appropriate place. An example:

E poss. adj. ~ SC poss. adj. with high unconditioned translation probability; SC poss. adj. ~ E of-adjunct; of-adjunct discussed either with other adjucts or with possessive adjectives in the form → (cond. *z*) (SC poss. adj ~ E of-adjunct).

The backtranslation method has been considered the most suitable for contrastive description and it has been adopted in our attempt to approach the English class of possessive adjective through Serbo-Croatian translation equivalents.

The English class of possessive adjectives is taken to be closed and to have the followin terms: my, your, his, her, its, our, their; emphatic forms with own.

The conditions for the use of the items are as follows:

1. a) my if the possessor is the first grammatical person, etc.:
   I have my book
1. b) your, our if the possessor is generic:
   the door is on your left
2. If the subject is not the possessor, possessive adjectives are used to refer to the possessor contained in the context:

John is happy. H i s (John's) marriage is a success

The possessive adjective is obligatory or very frequent with the heads of nominal groups contained in the list below.

3. If the subject is identical with the possessor, the possessives may be used:
he was older than the rest of us in h i s class.

Here the possessive adjective is not obligatory and instead of it we could have the definite article, or we could interpret u s as the contextually indicated possessor and have the corresponding possessive modifier: o u r c l a s s.

With heads belonging to certain lexical sets, or being used in a certain way, in the situation where the subject is identical with the possessor, the possessive adjective is obligatory or very freqeuent. The possessive is obligatory, or very frequent, with heads denoting:

a. articles of clothing:
he took off h i s hat
b. parts of the body:
he opened h i s eyes
c. house, household:
Mrs. A. had to give up h e r cook
d. members of the family:
I have seen fathers strike t h e i r children
e. friend and synonyms, and antonyms:
he spends his money on h i s friends
f. things the subject uses:
he leaned back in h i s chair
g. parts of the "inner man":
in m y memory I saw . . .
h. periods of time connected with the possessor's life:
now in h e r old age she has come to consider herself a "character"
i. nouns of the "sleep" set:
she saw him in h e r dream.

There are some exceptions to this (mostly with nouns denoting parts of the body) with nouns occurring in prepositional adjuncts:

she had an inffection of t h e ear / he had a cold in t h e head / he became very red in t h e face / he indicated that he had bought the goods by a nod of t h e head

4. Emotional use (Curme: Lively tone in possessive adjectives):
(i) "appreciation", "depreciation":
he knows h i s Shakespeare
(ii) emotional-generic y o u r:
y o u r true rustic turns his back upon his interlocutor

(iii) "interest in":
o u r hero

5. Emphatic with o w n:
   I went back toward m y o w n hut
6. Subject of the gerund if the subject of the finite verb is not the same as the subject of the gerund:
   nothing in the accident justified t h e i r grounding the aircraft
7. With Saxon Genitive:
   a wife who felt reals concern about h e r husband's mother
8. Head with two possessives connected by a n d:
   y o u r and m y house
   y o u r s and m y house
   y o u r house and m i n e

Serbo-Croatian translation aquivalents of English texts containing possessive adjectives

The English terms listed above have yielded the following Serbo-Croatian items:

m y — moj: 200, svoj: 50, mi: 68, ∅: 71, si: 1, deriv.: 14, DC: 32
y o u r — tvoj: 26, svoj: 9, ti: 2, ∅: 21, 1, DC: 6
vaš honorific: 16
vaš: 14, vam: 4
h i s — njegov: 127, svoj: 91, mu: 33, ∅: 86, si: 7, se: 5, vlastiti: 1, deriv.: 1, DC: 34
h e r — njezin/njen: 107, svoj: 52, joj: 30, ∅: 31, si: 1
i t s — njegov: 7, svoj: 12, mu: 1, DC: 12
njezin/njen: 6, joj: 1
o u r — naš: 86, svoj: 8, nam: 17, ∅: 10, DC: 12
t h e i r — njihov: 46, svoj: 23, njih: 1, im: 17, ∅: 20, si: 6, vlastiti: 1, DC: 24

Unconditioned translation probabilities:

	moj, etc	svoj	dat.	∅	si	se	deriv.	gen.
my	.42	.12	.16	.17	.02			
your	.80	.13	.07					
his	.29	.25	.10	.24	.19	.14	.03	
her	.49	.22	.13	.13	.05			
its	.37	.56	.05					
our	.79	.07	.15	.09				
their	.40	.20	.15	.17	.05		.00	.00
AVERAGE	.50	.22	.14	.18	.08	.14	.01	.00

NOTES. — The difference between t v o j and honorific v a š is not relevant for our research as it is not restricted to possessive adjectives only.

There is no correspondence in gender as SC distinguishes two types of gender: grammatical (mostly depending on the final sound of the noun) and natural, as against almost purely natural gender in English.

The distinction between n j e z i n and n j e n is one of register. DC indicates that no useful translation was possible.

Deriv. indicates possessive adjectives derived from nouns.

This is now the body of NL items which will have as their equivalents the selected body of FL items. As unconditioned equivalence probability shows that the most frequent equivalents of the system of FL possessive adjectives are the NL items m o j, t v o j, n j e g o v, n j e z i n, n a š, v a š, n j i h o v these are taken to be the terms of the formally corresponding NL system.

The SC items are now translated into E, classified according to the selected uses of possessive adjectives in E.

1. a) *E* m y *if the possessor is the first grammatical person, etc.*

a. If the possessor is not the subject of the clause then:

SC moj ~ E my: teško je opisati m o j u majku ~ it is difficult to describe m y mother

SC tvoj ~ E your: ne trebam više posuđivati t v o j e pero ~ I need not borrow y o u r pen any more

SC njegov ~ E his, her, its | n j e g o v j e brak bio sretan
SC njezin ~ E his, her its | ~ h i s marriage was a happy one / nisu htjeli ostati u n j e z i n o kući ~ they would not stay in h e r house / pogled na kuću s n j e n i m velikim prozorima ~ the sight of the house with i t s great windows.

SC naš ~ E our: sastanak kluba u n a š o j kući ~ the meeting of the club at o u r house

SC vaš (plural and honoric) ~ E your: ne trebam više posuđivati v a š e (V a š e) pero ~ I need not borrow y o u r pen any more

SC njihov ~ E their: n j i h o v je posao imao neku svrhu ~ t h e i r business had a purpose

1. b) *E generic use of* y o u r *and* o u r

SC if used genrically t v o j, t i, v a š, v a m, V a m (honorific), n a š, n a m, ϕ, s v o j when used as stated under 1., 2. and 3. ~ E y o u r, o u r:

vrata su t i (v a m, V a m) na desno ~ the door is on y o u r right / n a š a nas osjetila često varaju ~ o u r

senses often deceive us / ∅ osjetila nas često varaju ~ o u r senses often deceive us

2. *E if the subject is not the possessor, possessive adjectives are used to refer to the possessor contained in the cotext.*

2. a) SC possesive adjectives ~ E corresponding possessive adjectives:
pretražuje m o j e ladice ~ she searches m y drawers / kad pogledam t v o j krevet ~ when I look at y o u r bed / zna li t v o j a majka o tomu? ~ does y o u r mother know about it? / otada je Evropa bila n j i h o v dom ~ Europe has been t h e i r home ever since / to će biti jedina utjeha u m o m životu ~ that will be the only consolation in m y life

2. b) SC enclitic dative of personal pronouns ~ E possessive adjective according to the grammatical person denoted by the dative,

if in SC

(1) the dative is the dative object of a verb having another object in the accusative:
uništava m i zdravlje ~ it ruins m y health / pretražuje mu ladice ~ she searches h i s drawers / prerezat će n a m grlo ~ they will cut o u r throats

(2) the dative occurs immediately after a connective:
tada m i majka oboli ~ then m y mother was taken ill / kad t i pogledam krevet ~ when I look at y o u r bed

(3) the dative occurs immediately after l i:
zna li t i majka o tomu? ~ does y o u r mother know about it?

(4) the dative occurs with the verb b i t i:
mršava bi m u ruka sama pošla prema čelu ~ h i s thin hand would go of itself to his forehead / otada i m je Evropa bila dom ~ Europe has been t h e i r home ever since

(5) the dative occurs with the enclitic forms of the verb h t j e t i:
to će m i biti jedina utjeha u životu ~ that will be the only consolation in m y life

(6) the dative occurs with the reflexive pronoun s e:
slika svega toga nalazi m i se u svijesti ~ the picture of it all is in m y mind

2. c) SC enclitic accusative followed by a prepositional adjunct containig a noun denoting a part of the body as the head of its nominal group ~ E possessive adjective according to the person denoted by the accusative:
ranio m e u ruku ~ he hurt m y arm / udarali su g a po glavi ~ they were hitting h i s head

2. d) SC zero with nouns denoting members of a family, particularly with the first person ~ E possessive according to the person of the possessor:
Ø sestra je morala ići ~ m y sister had to go / Ø majka nije nikad ostajala dulje od tjedan dana ~ m y mother never stayed longer than a week / Ø otac je odlazio rano u ured ~ m y father went early to the office / Ø djed je nađen mrtav ~ m y grandfather was found dead

2. e) SC possessive adjectives derived from nouns, particularly with the first person ~ E adjunct of the structure: o f-possessive adjective-head:
d j e d o v pogreb ~ the funeral o f m y g r a n d f a t h e r / o č e v a šutnja ~ the silence o f m y f a t h e r

3. *E if the possessor is identical with the subject of the clause the possessive may be used depending on the meaning. With heads belonging to certain lexical sets or being used in a certain way the possessive adjective is obligatory or extremely frequent.*

3. a) SC possessive adjective ~ E corresponding possessive adjective:
da sam imao m o j e iskustvo ~ if I had had m y experience / biolozi nam kažu da ne naslijeđujemo izravno od n a š i h roditelja ~ biologists tell us that we do not inherit directly from o u r parents

3. b) SC s v o j ~ E possessive adjective according to the person of the subject:
vratila se da živi na velikom imanju sa s v o j o m sestrom ~ she came back to live on a big farm with h e r sister / danas bih mogao napustiti s v o j u obitelj ~ I could leave m y family today / svi su oni bili naporno radili za s v o j novac ~ all of them had worked hard for t h e i r money / podigao je s v o j u čašu ~ he picked up h i s glass / svako doba ima svojih prednosti ~ every age has i t s advantages / biolozi nam kažu da ne naslijeđujemo izravno od s v o j i h roditelja ~ biologists tell us that we do not inherit directly from o u r parents / život koji si (ste, honorific, plural) izgradio (izgradili) za s v o j u ženu i djecu ~ the life you have built up for y o u r wife and children

3. c) SC zero ~ E possessive adjectives according to the person of the subject, if zero occurs with:

(1) nouns denoting articles of clothing:
obukao sam Ø hlače ~ I put on m y trousers / skinuo je Ø šešir ~ he took off h i s hat / došao je s rukama u džepovima Ø hlača ~ he came in with his hands in h i s trousers' pockets

(2) nouns denoting parts of the body:

otvorio je ∅ oči ~ he opened h i s eyes / pružila je ∅ ruku ~ she held out h e r hand / slegnuli su ∅ ramenima ~ they shrugged t h e i r shoulders / budili su se svakog jutra s uzbuđenjem u ∅ krvi ~ they woke every morning with excitement in t h e i r blood

Figurative: uvukao je ∅ rogove ~ he drew in h i s horns

(3) nouns denoting "house", "household", members of the household:

njegova je žena bila vrlo aktivna u javnim poslovima a da nije zanemarivala ∅ kućanstvo ~ his wife was very active in public affairs without neglecting h e r house / u načinu kako je držala ∅ kuću ~ in the way she kept h e r house / majka je zanemarivala ∅ dom ~ the mother neglected h e r home / gospođa A. morala se odreći ∅ kuharice ~ Mrs. A. had to give up h e r cook

(4) nouns denoting members of the family:

život koji si izgradio za ∅ ženu i djecu ~ the life you have built up for y o u r wife and children / ne nasljeđujemo neposredno od ∅ roditelja nego od ∅ djedova ~ we do not inherit directly from o u r parents but from o u r grandparents / vidio sam očeve kako udaraju ∅ djecu ~ I have seen fathers strike t h e i r children / pati što je daleko od ∅ žene ~ he sufferes from being away from h i s wife

(5) nouns like "friend" and similar, and antonyms:

troši novac na ∅ prijatelje ~ he spends his money on h i s friends

(6) nouns denoting articles the grammatical subject uses:

troši ∅ novac na slike ~ he spends h i s money on pictures / naslonio se u ∅ stolici ~ he leaned back in h i s chair / provodi sate ležeći na ∅ krevetu ~ he spends hours lying on h i s cot / uzeo je ∅ čašu ~ he picked up h i s glass / čovjek nasuprot meni bio je skinuo ∅ naočale ~ the man opposite me had taken off h i s spectacles / upalio je ∅ bateriju ~ he turned on h i s electric torch / uzeo sam ∅ službeni revolver ~ I picked up m y service revolver

(7) nouns denoting parts of the inner man:

održi ∅ ravnotežu ~ keep y o u r balance / u ∅ sjećanju sam vidio.. ~ in m y memory I saw... / izgubio je ∅ svijest ~ he lost h i s senses

(8) nouns denoting periods of time connected with the subject's life, including the noun "life":

sada u ∅ starosti stala se smatrati "originalom" ~ now in h e r old age she has come to consider herself a "character" / mogla je u ∅ mladosti pozirati za portret ~ she could in h e r youth have posed for a portrait / pošto provedemo najbolje godine ∅ života ~ after we spend the best years of o u r life / provodila je dio ∅ vremena u A. ~ she spent part of h e r time in A.

(9) nouns of the "sleep" set:

vidjela ga je u ∅ snu ~ she saw him in h e r dream

3. d) SC s e with transitive verbs having s e as their object and a prepositional adjunct having as the head of its nominal group one of the nouns under 3. c) ~ E possessive adjective according to the person of the subject:

počeše s e po glavi ~ he scrathed h i s head / ugrize s e za usnu ~ he bit h i s lip

3. e) SC s i as the indirect object when the direct object is one of the nouns under 3. c) ~ E possesive adjective according to the person of the subject:

porezala s i je prst ~ she cut h e r finger / prostrijelio s i je mozak ~ he blew out h i s brans / slomio s i je nogu ~ he broke h i s leg / otro s i je čelo ~ he mopped h i s forehead

4. (i) *English possessives expressing "appreciation" or "depreciation"* of the type:

he knows h i s Shakespeare / he could kill h i s thirty birds a day

have no translation equivalent in SC. They will have to be explained rather fully and illustrated with a large number of examples. It will be necessary to define and classify them with greater delicay than the existing grammars usually do because the learner must grasp their use intellectually to be able to use them at all. This is true of all English features which have no equivalents in Serbo-Croatian.

(ii) The same is true of *the emotional-generic "your"* of the type:

no one so fallible as y o u r expert in handwriting / y o u r facetious bore is the worst of all / a smile — not one of y o u r unmeaning wooden grins — but a real smile

(iii) SC n a š to arouse interest, to indicate active participation, etc. ~ E o u r:

n a š mladi prijatelj ~ o u r young friend / n a š junak ~ o u r hero / sad moramo upoznati n a š e g čitaoca s unutratrašnjošću ribarske kolibe ~ we must now introduce o u r reader to the interior of the fisher's cottage

5. *E emphatic form of possessive adjectives:* adjective + *own.*

5. a) SC possessive adjective + v l a s t i t i ~ E possessive adjctive + o w n:

uvrijedio me u m o j o j v l a s t i t o j kući ~ he insulted me in m y o w n house / upravni odbor koji je uključivao n j e g o v o g v l a s t i t o g sina ~ a board of directors which included h i s o w n son

5. b) SC s v o j + v l a s t i t i ~ E possessive adjective according to the person of the subject + o w n:

nema prijatelja izvan s v o g v l a s t i t o g doma ~ he has no friend outside h i s o w n home / ja sam s v o j v l a s t i t i gospodar ~ I am m y o w n master

SC s v o j v l a s t i t i has as its E equivalent o f + possessive adjective + o w n mostly if the qualified noun is preceded by the indefinite article in the singular or its plural zero form; the predicator in most cases is the verb t o h a v e:

sg. the roof has a life o f i t s o w n / she has no children o f h e r o w n / in the last year I had a car o f m y o w n / I have a house o f m y o w n / it has a value o f i t s o w n / he has a small business o f h i s o w n / she has a will o f h e r o w n / each had had a quality o f i t s o w n / she had a thriving business o f h e r o w n / I didn't mind not having a room o f m y o w n

pl. some of whom already had children o f t h e i r o w n / he has two dogs o f h i s o w n / they had no children o f t h e i r o w n / he had reasons o f h i s o w n for doing so

The qualified noun may be a mass abstract noun without the indefinite article:

the trees seem at times to have life and animation o f t h e i r o w n

Other predicators are also possible:

it was as if each one lived in a world o f h i s o w n / she had always wanted a room o f h e r o w n

5. c) SC v l a s t i t i ~ E possessive adjective according to the person of the subject + o w n:

ona je na to gledala na v l a s t i t i način ~ she saw it in h e r o w n way / sviđala mi se v l a s t i t a kuća ~ I liked m y o w n house

See also what is said of "o f + possessive adjective + o w n" under 5. b).

5. d) SC possessive adjective + r o đ e n i ~ E see 5. a):
mrzio sam m o j u r o đ e n u djecu ~ I hated m y o w n children

5. e) SC s v o j + r o đ e n i ~ E see 5. b):
mrzio sam s v o j u r o đ e n u djecu ~ I hated m y o w n children

5. f) SC r o đ e n i ~ E see 5. c):
mrzio sam r o đ e n u djecu ~ I hated m y o w n children

5. g) SC s a m s i + predicator (+ object) ~ E predicator + possessive adjective + o w n + object:

s a m a s i pravi haljine ~ she makes h e r o w n dresses /
s a m s i mota cigarete ~ he rolls h i s o w n cigarettes /
s a m a s i kuha ~ she cooks h e r o w n meals

6. *E subject of the gerund if the subject of the finite verb is not the same as the subject of the gerund.*

The gerund as used in E has no parallel use in SC, which in most cases will have as an equivalent a clause introduced by the conjunction *da*, and the possessive expounding the subject of the gerund will be rendered as the subject of the finite verb group. In some cases there is a corresponding gerund or an equivalent verbal noun, in which case the possessives are used in the usual way. The question of the SC translation equivalents of the E gerund would have to be dealt with separately when also the possessives as the subject of the gerund will be treated.

7. *E possessive adjectives with Saxon Genitive.*

7. a) SC noun + possessive adjective + genitive noun denoting person ~ E possessive adjective + Saxon Genitive of the noun denoting person + noun:

otac m o g oca bio je krojač ~ m y f a t h e r's father was a tailor / ime m o j e bake bilo je Pilar ~ m y g r a n d m o t h e r's name was Pilar / nisam morao biti svakog jutra u devet u uredu m o g oca ~ I did not have to be every morning at nine o'clock in m y f a t h e r's office

7. b) SC noun + s v o j + genitive noun denoting person ~ E possessive adjective + Saxon Genitive of the noun denoting person + noun:

supruga koja se doista brine za majku s v o g muža ~ a wife who feels a real concern about h e r h u s b a n d's mother / moja je sestra morala sama snositi teret tragedije s v o g muža ~ my sister had to bear alone the burden of h e r h u s b a n d's tragedy

7. c) SC possessive adjectives derived from nouns denoting persons ~ E possessive adjective + Saxon Genitive:

moja je sestra morala sama snositi teret m u ž e v l j e v e tragedije ~ my sister had to bear alone the burden of h e r h u s b a n d's tragedy / žene m a j č i n e generacije bile su... ~ the women of m y m o t h e r's generation were... / b a k i n o je prezime bilo Pilar ~ m y g r a n d m o t h e r's name was Pilar / o č e v je posao bio... ~ m y f a t h e r's business was...

8. *E head with two possessives connected by* a n d:

adj a n d adj noun
pron a n d adj noun
adj noun a n d pron

8. a) SC head with two possessives coordinated by i ~ E

a. possessive adjective + a n d + possessive adjective:
t v o j a i m o j a kuća ~ y o u r and m y house

b. possessive pronouns + a n d + possessive adjective:
t v o j a i m o j a kuća ~ y o u r s and m y house

c. possessive adjective + head + a n d + possessive pronoun
t v o j a i m o j a kuća ~ y o u r house and m i n e

8. b) SC possessive adjective + head + i + possessive pronoun ~ E see the above possibilities:

t v o j a kuća i m o j a ~ y o u r and m y house
~ y o u r s and m y house
~ y o u r house and m i n e

In SC possessives have the same form whether they function as adjectives or pronouns and therefore it is impossible to say whether in m o j a i t v o j a k u ć a the possessive m o j a is an adjective (m y) or pronoun (m i n e) which is of no importance in this case.

Serbo-Croatian as the source language

The FL text will yield a number of translation equivalents in the NL. Very likely the greatest number of the equivalents will belong to the same category, for instance a word-class. We are now free to consider this word-class as the closest formal correspondent of the FL class. When the formally corresponding class has been thus established, we can see what happens in the FL with those uses of the items of the class which have not emerged from the translation of the FL texts. Thus for instance if the E possessive adjective i t s yields in SC n j e g o v, n j e z i n (depending on the use of gender in SC), we can take a required number of original SC texts containing the possessives

and study their translation equivalents in E and we shall find that the possessives have o f i t in addition to i t s as their E translation equivalents. We have said that only those translation equivalents will be accepted as are contained among the originally selected FL items. This statement could, for practical resasons, be modified to include also the items which occur as variants of the selected items. We could have included these items in the original list, but it is probably better if they come as a result of translation from NL because variants free in FL may be obligatory in NL and in that case they will be treated separately, probably even as items of different classes.

We believe that it will only exceptionally be nesessary to start from formally corresponding NL categories as the uses of the items treated in this way will emerge of themselves in some other place if the backtranslation method is applied to a larger body of FL categories. If the purpose of contrastive studies of SC and E is to produce an English grammar for the speakers of SC the equivalence "SC possessive adjective ~ E o f i t" will emerge when determining SC equivalents of E prepositions where it will become apparent that E prepositions have as their equivalents SC cases, prepositions, possessives, etc.

Follow the results of translating into E of SC possessive adjectives not resulting from FL → NL translation.

SC possessive adjective or equivalent ~ E o f i t if the antecedent is a neuter nouns:

ulica je bila dugačka s kapelicom na n j e n o m kraju ~

the street was long with a chapel at the end o f i t

Instances of o f m e, etc., as equivalents of SC possessive adjectives will have to be listed:

the ruin of me / the death of me / the look of him.

SC demonstrative adjectives / numeral adjectives / indefinite adjectives + possessive adjectives or equivalents + head ~ E demonstrative adjectives / numeral adjectives / indefinite adjectives + head + o f + possessive pronouns:

ta t v o j a strpljiva žena ~ that patient wife o f y o u r s / ova m o j a knjiga ~ this book o f m i n e / neki će n j e g o v nasljednik odati poštovanje njegovom geniju ~ some successor o f h i s will pay tribute to his genius / dva n j e g o v a prijatelja ~ two friends o f h i s

If there is no indefinite adjective in SC but the E equivalent requires it, the same construction is used:

narednik je m o j prijatelj / narednik m i je prijatelj ~ the sergeant is a friend o f m i n e.

The results obtained here are not conclusive and they serve only as an illustrations of the backtranslation method which we believe is likely to yield useful results. No attempt has been made to systematize and organize the results obtained as that raises a number of rather complex questions which are outside the scope of this essay.