

According to Lévy (1967), translators resort to the minimax strategy, which means, among other things, that they first look for formal correspondences in their search for translation equivalents. It is proposed that this tendency is cognitively motivated as it is strictly connected with language users' ambition to economize on the mental effort involved in any human action (Zipf 1949). In my talk I shall present an analysis of various renderings of the Swedish –s passive voice construction in a sample of multiple (i.e. 43) non-professional Polish translations of the same not-literary Swedish text, with a view to verify the validity of the above-presented thesis, as well as to discuss the possible correlation the minimax strategy may have with other phenomena widely discussed in translation studies, e.g. the development of the characteristic features of the so-called "third code" (Frawley 1984).

The presentation is structured as follows: Firstly, the origin of the notion of the minimax strategy in translation studies is sketched and discussed in reference to the psychology of translation. What follows is a brief description of the passive voice structures in Swedish and Polish as well as the semantically akin Polish constructions that may potentially be used to render the Swedish –s passive conceptualisations. Subsequently, the results of a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the data is presented, which enables me to answer two main research questions:

1. Is the minimax strategy a general feature of the collected translations?
2. Can the minimax strategy be also seen as an individual feature of the translators' style, i.e. a preferred way of rendering the ST structures into the TT within a single text?

The presentation concludes with some suggestions for further research on the "third code" and translation universals with reference to the minimax strategy.