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The role of the syntactic features of similes in their translation from English into Albanian: The case of Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*

Abstract

It has often been stated in translation theory that affinity between linguistic features in different languages may facilitate their translation from one into the other. Similes are one of these features. Apart from the fact that they usually comprise a tripartite structure, the comparison markers establishing the relationship between the other two constituents happen to be quite close semantically. Similarity may be seen even in the syntactic function that they fulfill in the texts where they appear. However, do these syntactic affinities really affect the translation of similes in a positive way? If yes, to what degree? In this paper we set out to investigate these two issues using data from the novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by the British author Thomas Hardy and its translation into Albanian "Tesi i d'Erbervilleve". We will first analyze similes in terms of their syntactic make-up and the functions they fulfill in the source text followed by an analysis of their translations. Finally, we will discuss the implications of these analyses for the issues above.

Keywords: *similes, syntactic functions, comparison markers, adverbial modifiers of manner, clause of manner-comparison, qualifiers*

1. Introduction

The motivation for this paper comes from what Raymond van den Broeck (1981) states about the task of the translation theory. According to van den Broeck, the task of the translation theory is not to prescribe how people should translate but rather to predict and test the role that various aspects of linguistic phenomena play in their translation from one language to another.

Bearing this in mind, in this paper we investigate the extent to which two syntactic aspects of similes, namely comparison marker and the syntactic function in the clause, affect their translatability. It is based on the assumption that a linguistic feature which is similar across languages would facilitate translation rather than pose difficulties. We would like to test this possibility using data from Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" and its translation into Albanian "Tesi i d'Erbervilleve".

We will proceed in the following way. We will first look at the two syntactic aspects of the similes in the source text. Then, we will move on to the analysis of their translation into Albanian.

2. Theoretical framework

Similes are 'comparisons between two different things that resemble each other in at least one way' (Harris 2010). Similes are one of the most frequent linguistic expressive means in literary texts. Their communicative function is fulfilled by establishing a relationship of similarity between two entities which are essentially different but are regarded as similar from the point of view of some given feature (Pierini 2007).

Similes are structurally organized in three components. The first component is the entity that is being described. The second is the comparison marker which establishes the relationship between the constituent entities, and the third is the constituent serving as the descriptor.

Similes display a relatively high degree of syntactic stability. This is indicated by the fact that similes almost always contain a comparison marker by which they are recognized. In English comparison markers range from verbs (look/seem like, resemble), adjectives (similar to, the same as) to prepositions (like, as) and conjunctions (as if/though) (Pierini 2007). Pierini also points to a special type which is peculiar to English and which is structured as noun-like and is placed before nouns functioning as adjectives.

3. Methodology

The data come from Thomas Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles". As similes are almost always signaled by comparison markers such as like, as, as ... as, as if/though, their identification is greatly facilitated by the use of computer programs specially designed for text analysis. Using one such program named antonc3.2.1,

which is a freely downloadable text analysis toolkit, we have managed to find and document about 160 similes and other expressions of comparison most of which will be presented in this paper.

4. Analysis of the data

4. 1. Similes according to the comparison marker.

Similes with the comparison marker like constitute the largest group in our corpus. There are at least 88 instances or 58% of their total number. The following examples are some of them:

like a map beneath him (p.6), **like** a weaver's shuttle (p.15), **like** a raging tiger (p.25), **like** an arrow (p.28), **like** a sword (p.28), **like** a geranium bloom (p.33), **like** a bather about to make his plunge (p.35), **like** one in a dream (f.37), **like** a painter from his easel (p.46), **like** those of a wild animal (p.52), **like** Impatience on a monument (p.58), **like** a nimbus of a saint (f.63), like a Chinaman's queue (f.66), (f.91), **like** a slimy snake (p.66), **like** the love-making of the grasshopper (p.89), **like** that of a lover (p. 90), **like** Babylon (p.102), **like** a fly on a billiard-table of indefinite length (p.107), **like** a long-dog (p.113), like the beginning of a gallows. (p.123), **like** a fascinated bird (p.125), **like** breezes (p.126),

Similes with as constitute the second largest group with 52 instances. They fall into two types.

a. **as + noun/noun phrase**

as the sap in the twigs (p.102), **as** the one soothing thing within the dusky horizon (p.323), **as** one in a dream (p.344), **as** the faeces of the same buzzing red glutton (p.345), **as** of Pandemonium (p.347), **as** Abraham might have mourned over Isaac while they went up the hill together (p.351), **as** the voice of the cuckoo in the third week (p.372), **as** a shining light (p.400), **as** in an isometric drawing. (p.413),

b. **as + adjective/adverb + as + noun/noun phrase**

- **adjective/adverb + as + noun/noun phrase**

as simple as a duchess's (p.22), **as** dignified **as** Chapels-of-Ease (p.34), **as** luminous and beautiful **as** some Praxitelean creation (p.67), sensitive **as** a gossamer, and blank **as** snow (p.74), rapid **as** the shadow of a cloud (p.105), **as** dazzling **as** that of cultivated flowers (p.126), stealthily as a cat (p.126), **as** surely **as** two streams in one vale (p.132), rotten **as** touch-wood (p.136), **as** unnatural and ghastly **as** a laugh in hell (p.235), **as** white as the scene without (p.303), heavy and thick **as** a warrior's (p.343)

Another category is that in which the relationship between the two entities is expressed by means of as if/as though. At least 16 instances have been counted.

as if/as though + clause

as if they were a pair of eyes in the small of his back (p.89), **as if** it had been a snake's (p.173), **as if** they had put off a vegetable for an animal integument. (p.297), **as if** you'd been had-rode (p.339), **as if** they were a quarter of a mile off, (p.42), as if they were silvered (p.413), **as if** in prayer (f.414)

There is a fourth way by means of which comparisons are encoded. This is the case when the comparison marker like is placed after the noun as in the following examples. It functions as an adjective and is known as a condensed form of comparison (Pierini, 2007). 8 such instances occur in our corpus.

noun-like

lath-like stripling (f.4), cliff-**like** dwellings (f.47), business-**like** tones (f.112), the wave-**like** curl of her lashes (f.130), moon-**like** eyes (f.135), dream-**like** fixity f.154), a pumpkin-**like** moon (f.182), tower-**like** pillar (f.409)

4.2. Similes according to their syntactic function in the clause**4.2.1 Adverbial modifiers of manner**

Similes may fulfil various syntactic functions in the clauses and texts where they appear. In our corpus they occur mostly as adverbial modifiers of manner indicating the way something happens by means of a comparison. They are usually expressed by a noun or noun phrase preceded by like or as. For example:

Tess still stood hesitating **like a bather about to make his plunge**...(p.35), ... and it glistened **like a slimy snake** in the rays of the moon. (p.66), ...the brim encircled it **like a nimbus of a saint**. (p.63), ...William clinked off **like a long dog** and jumped safe...(p.113), ...to come here affected him **like throwing off splints** and bandages;...(p.156) ...where it rested **like crystals**. (p.200), He was arriving like a ghost... (p.268), ...the ground ringing under her feet **like an anvil**. (p.305)

Variants of these are, what we call, independent adverbial modifiers of manner which act like common adverbial modifiers of manner but in writing are separated by commas. In the text they are also used to emphasize, to clarify or specify the exact circumstances under which things happen by likening them to something else.

Her mother's pride in her girl's appearance lead her to step back, **like a painter from his easel**...(p. 46), A kind of rope could be seen descending to some distance below her waist, **like a Chinaman's queue**. (p.66), ...and think not only that d'Urberville, like Babylon, had fallen. (p. 102), Tess stood still upon the hemmed expanse of verdant flatness, **like a fly on a billiard-table of indefinite length**, ... (p.107)

4.2.2 Clauses of manner – comparison

The second largest group is that of similes functioning as clauses of manner – comparison. This term indicates that these clauses show the way an action happens by comparing it to something else. The relationship between the two entities is expressed by as if/ as though.

...the open mead impressed them with a feeling of isolation, **as if they were Adam and Eve**. (p.133), The others waited for the dairyman's answer **as if their lives hung upon it**... (p.159), ...conned the characters of her face **as if they had been hieroglyphics**. (p.179), ...irradiated as if they bore fire within them... (p.206), Clare arose in the light of a dawn that was ashy and furtive, **as though associated with crime**. (p.243), In his throat was something as if a sob had solidified there. (p.279), ...The irregular chalk table-land or plateau, bosomed with semi-globular tumuli – **as if Cybele the Many-breasted were supinely extended there**

4.2.3 Qualifiers

In this quality, similes provide additional information about what they qualify. They usually qualify nouns or noun phrases. They can occur alone or along with adjectives or prepositional phrases. Even here we need to distinguish between simple and independent qualifiers. The latter are also separated by commas.

a. Simple qualifiers

The lath-like stripling frowned. (p.4), ...the **cliff-like dwellings** of Shaston broke the line of the ridge. (p.147), there arose from within a ticking **like the love-making of the grasshopper**. (p.89), ...till Clare, regarding for a moment the wave-like curl of her lashes (p.130), ...an immense rope of hair **like a ship's cable**... (p.271), ...she could discern a surface **like polished steel**... (p.291), ...in front of it the long red elevator **like a Jacob's ladder**, ... (f.345)

b. Independent qualifiers

...as she listened Tess, **like a fascinated bird**, could not leave the spot. (p.125), ... and drops upon her hair, **like seed pearls**. (p.134), They marked the buoyancy of her tread, **like the skim of a bird which has not quite alighted**. (p.200), ...during those first moments in which brain, like a Samson shaking himself, is trying its strength, ... (p.258), The wind, playing upon the edifice, produced a booming note, **like the note of some gigantic one-stringed harp**. (p.409)

4.2.4 As subject complements

As subject complements similes are used mainly with verbs like be, look, appear. ...they looked from this height **like the meshes of a net**. (p.307), And the immense stack of straw where in the morning there had been nothing, appeared **as the faeces of the same buzzin red glutton**. (f.345), Their every idea was temporary and forefending, **like the plans of two children**. (f.402), ...her breathing was now quick and small, **like that of a lesser creature than a woman**. (f.412), ...was to Angel Clare **like a fairy place suddenly created by the stroke of a wand**... (f.391), You are **as weak as a bled calf**, you know you are;... (f.347), The Froom waters were

clear as the pure River of Life... (f.105), Having been lying down in her clothes she *was warm as a sunned cat.* (f.174)

4.3 Translation of similes into Albanian

4.3.1 Translation of like

In the translation of like similes, in 67 out of a total of 88 instances the translator has opted for its direct Albanian equivalent *si*.

like a map beneath him (p.6) - *si* ndonjë hartë gjeografike (p.12), *like* a weaver's shuttle (p.15) - *si* ai meqiku i endësit (p.26), *like an arrow* (p.28) - *si* shigjetë (p.43), *like a sword* (p.28) - *si* ndonjë shpatë (p.43), *like a geranium bloom* (p.33) - *si* ndonjë elbarozë e kuqe (p.51), *like* a bather about to make his plunge (p.35) - *si* një notar që matet të zhytet në ujë (p.53), *like* one in a dream (f.37) - *si* në ëndërr (p.56), like those of a wild animal. (p.52) - *si* sytë e ndonjë egërsire. (p.74), like Impatience on a monument (p.58) - *si* statujë e Padurimit (f.81), *like* a nimbus of a saint (p.63) - *si* brerorja e ndonjë shentori. (f.88), like a Chinaman's queue. (p.66) - *si* balukja e ndonjë kinezi. (p.91), *like* a slimy snake (p.66) - *si* ndonjë gjarpër zvarritës. (p.92)

In the remaining instances two translation tendencies have been noticed; a. translation without *like* but with verbs such as *ngjaj*, *ngjasoj* (resemble), b. translation with the Albanian equivalent *si* followed by verbs *duket* (seems), *ngjan* (looks like, resembles).

a. Translation without like

like a raging tiger – *i* ngjante një tigr (resembled a tiger), like the last coin – *i* ngjasonte një monedhe (resembled a coin), *like* a painter – *siç* bën piktori (as the painter does), *like* a piece of day left behind by accident - *dukej* sikur rastësisht aty kishte mbetur nje copë ditë (looked *like* there was a piece of day left), *like* Babylon - *siç* ra dikur Babilonia (as Babylon once fell), the meadows lay *like* a white sea - *luadhet* i përngjisnin një deti të bardhë (the meadows looked *like* a white sea), flinch under it like a plant - *siç* mblidhet bima (as the plant flinches), *like* the bitterness of dissolution - *që* *i* ngjasonte hidhërimit të vdekjes (that resembled the grief of death)

b. Translation with si and an Albanian verb meaning seems, looks like

like a Chinaman's queue - *që ngjante si* balukja e ndonjë kinezi (which looked like a Chinaman's fringe), *like* those of an animal – *që dukeshin si* sytë e ndonjë egërsire (which seemed like the eyes of a wild beast), like polished steel - *që duket si* petë e lëmuar çeliku (which looked like a sheet of polished steel)

4.3.2 Translation of as, as ... as

The comparison marker *as* used alone has been translated in a number of ways. On at least 7 occasions it has been translated by the Albanian *si*:

as a swimmer to the wave - **si** notari midis valëve, **as** echoed from a time of foolishness - jehoi aty **si** mbeturinë e një periudhe marrëzie të verbër, **as** a dying man to the dying - **si** një njeri që është në buzë të varrit, **as** lofty bastions – **si** kështjella, **as** a fiend – si armik, as a lover – **si** dashnor, **as** a shining light – **si** rreze drite

Other forms of translation are: sikur/sikundër, siç/ashtu siç, thua se/ si të thuash, sa/sa ç'. The first two, sikur/sikundër, siç/ashtu siç may be considered as variants of si as they are quite close semantically. Thua se/ si të thuash mark a slightly farther variant equivalent in English to as it were/as if.

as the sap in the twigs - **sikundër** çohet peshë lëngu i pemëve, as a canvas by Van Asloot or Sallaert - sa ç'janë të mbushura pëlhurat e piktorëve Alslot ose Salert, as in a chemical process - **thua se** po ndodhte ndonjë proces kimik, **as** at a foolish nightmare - **siç** mund të qeshë njeriu me një makth, **as** in a funeral procession - sikur po shkonin prapa një qivuri, **as** the dive of the kingfisher - **ashtu siç** bën një peshk, appeared as the faeces... - ishte, **si të thuash**, një pjellë, as the voice of the cuckoo... - sa zëri i qyqes...

Some cases have been found where the comparison markers have been omitted in the translation and have been replaced by expressions or clauses that provide additional comments but with no comparison markers.

spread **as** the one soothing thing within the dusky horizon - tingëllonin **në një mënyrë disi qetësuese** (sounded in a somewhat soothing way), The snow had followed the birds from the polar basin as a white pillar of a cloud - Fill pas ardhjes së shpendëve prej rrethit polar kishte filluar të binte dëborë: **ajo binte në formën e një reje të bardhë pluhuri** (right after the birds' arrival from the polar circle it had begun to snow: it fell in the form of a white cloud of dust)

27 similes with as ... as have been counted. Both adverbs appear in 15 of them, whereas in 12 only the second as is used. This difference, however, does not seem to affect the way they are translated. On 14 occasions they have been rendered as si.

as sumple as a duchess's - të hollë e delikate **si** ndonjë dukeshë, sensitive **as** a gossamer - i ndjeshëm si cerga e merimangës, clear **as** the pure River of Life - të kulluara **si** vetë Lumi i Jetës, stealthily **as** a cat - **si** ndonjë mace, as surely as two streams in one vale - **si** dy rrëke uji që bashkohen së fundi në, të njëjtën luginë

4 instances have been translated by aq...sa/sa ç', which constitutes the direct Albanian equivalent of as ... as.

a polychrome as dazzling as that of cultivated flowers - larmi aq të këndshme ngjyrash sa lulet e ndonjë kopshti të mirëmbajtur, as horizontal as the mead itself - po aq horizontale sa livadhet, as peculiar to the rural labourer as the hexagon to the bee - ishte po aq i pandryshueshëm për fshatarët sa ç'është gjashtëkëndshi

për bletët, as unnatural and ghashtly as a laugh in hell - aq të panatyrshëm e të lemerishëm sa do të thoshe se ishte të qeshurit e skëtërrës

In two instances we find respectively *si të qenë* (as if they were) and *sa...aq* (as .. as) which is another variant of *aq ... sa* above.

1.as luminous and beautiful as some Praxitelean creation - *si të qenë krijuar nga dora e Praksitelit* (as if they were created by Praxitele's hand)

2.as inexpressive as silence - *sa të thata aq dhe të qeta*

4.3.3 Translation of noun-like similes

According to Pierini (2010), similes with this structure are not as productive in analytical languages like Italian as they are in English. She adds that in order to translate these linguistic structures they first need to be 'unfolded', which means their syntactic structure has to be changed, one or more components need to be omitted or added in accordance with various syntactic, semantic or stylistic intentions. The translation of noun-like similes will be discussed in section 4.4.1 below.

4.4 The syntactic functions of the similes and their translation into Albanian

4.4.1 Similes with like

There is a total of 50 similes with like which function as adverbial modifiers of manner or independent adverbial modifiers of manner. As such they are related to the verb indicating the way the action expressed by the verb is happening by comparing it to something else. In 28 instances they have been translated into Albanian as adverbials of manner, preserving, thus, their syntactic function in the source text. For instance:

...extended like a map beneath him (p6) - ...që ndehet te këmbët e tij si ndonjë hartë gjeografike (p.12), ...speeding along these lanes like an arrow (p.28) - ...kishte kaluar si shigjetë nëpër ato rrugë (p.43), She obeyed like one in a dream (p.37) – Ajo i bindej si në ëndërr. (p.56), I have been watching you from over the wall – sitting like Impatience on a monument (p.58) – Po ju vështroja nga muri. Ju qëndroni si statujë e Padurimit ...(p.81), the brim encircled it like a nimbus of a saint. (p.63) - ...strehët e saj e rrethonin kokën si brerorja e ndonjë shenjtori (p. 81), ...and it glistened like a slimy snake (p.66) - ...ai shndriste si ndonjë gjarpër zvarritës (p.92) The syntactic function has been changed in the translations of 23 instances. Here, apart from adverbial modifiers per se, there are also several instances of independent adverbials of manner. On 8 occasions adverbials of manner have not been translated as such but rather as independent adverbials of manner, manner-comparison clause or with phrases without comparison markers. The following patterns have been identified.

1. Translation as independent adverbials of manner

Tess stood hesitating like a bather about to make his plunge (p.35) – Tesi po

qëndronte ende duke nguruar, si një notar që matet të zhytet në ujë (p.56), ...his great knife and fork planted erect on the table like the beginning of a gallows. (p.123) – thikën dhe pirunin ai po i mbante perpendikularisht mbi tryezë, si ndonjë trikëmbësh që...(p.162), ...out of which the scattered trees rose like dangerous rocks. (p.134) - ...mbi të cilin ngriheshin, si shkëmbinj të rrezikshëm, pemë të shpërndara...(p.177)

2. Translation as manner-comparison clauses

...to come here ...affected him like throwing off splints and bandages... (p.172) - ...ndiente sikur këtu në Telbotejs i flakte tej fashat dhe kështallat... (p.224) (...he felt as if here in Talbothays he threw off his splints and bandages), ...she seemed to flinch under it like a plant in too burning a sun. (p.174) - ...dhe mblidhej sa një grusht, siç mblidhet bima nën rrezet përvëluese të diellit (p.227) (just as the plant flinches under the scorching rays of the sun), she seemed to feel like a fugitive in dream... (p.394) – I dukej sikur ishte në një ëndërr ... (p.481) (she felt as if she was in dream)

3. Translation with no comparison markers

Among them I should have stood like Hymeneus and Alexander, ... (p.341) – Ndërmjet tyre unë do të kisha luajtur rolin e Himeneut dhe të Aleksandrit,... (p.425) (...I would have played the role of Hymeneus and Alexander), ...allowing it to drift, like a corpse upon the current ... (p.395) – Ajo i përngjante një trupi që i lëshohet rrymës ... (p.482) (She resembled a corpse overwhelmed by the current)

Differences in the syntactic function can be seen even in the translation of the similes as independent adverbials of manner. There is, in our opinion, only one instance in which this syntactic function turns out unchanged.

...by moving their heads round in a slow, horizontal, passionless wheel, like the turn of puppets by clockwork. (p.134) - ...kthenin kokën mengadalë dhe pa u turbulluar, si marioneta që vihen në lëvizje prej një mekanizmi sahati (p.177)

However, most of them manifest differences in their syntactic function. For instance, we find some of them translated as adverbials of manner.

...that was only because, like Peter the Great, in a shipwright's yard ... (p.128) - ...si dikur Pjetri i Madh në kantierin detar... (p.169), ...and drops upon her hair, like seed pearls. (p.134) - ...dhe ia mbulonin flokët si me kokrriza margaritarësh. (p.177), tossed about by doubts and difficulties in London, like a cork on the waves, ... (p.232) – i torturuar prej dyshimesh dhe prej problemesh të pazgjidhura, sillej andej e këndej si ndonjë gogël e përpirë prej valëve... (p.293)

In rare cases independent adverbials of manner have also been translated as clauses of manner-comparison and relative clauses.

As manner-comparison clauses

Her mother's pride in her girl's appearance lead her to step back, like a painter from his easel... (p.46) – Misis Darbefildi, krenare për pamjen që kishte marrë e bija, u spraps nja dy hapa, siç bën piktori kur sprapset nga kambaleci... (p.66)

As relative clauses

...a kind of rope could be seen descending to some distance below her waist, like a Chinaman's queue. (p. 66) - ...i varej deri poshtë tek beli njëfarë gjalmi që ngjante si balukja e ndonjë kinezi. (p.91) (...which looked like some Chinese guy's fringe)
 Similes with like occur also as qualifiers. They are fewer in number than adverbials of manner and unlike adverbials of manner which are related to the verb, they are related to a noun or noun phrase providing comment on a specific aspect of it by way of comparison. They fall into two subtypes: simple and independent, and range from single adjectives to whole phrases.

Simple qualifiers

1. Translation as qualifier

...an immense rope of hair like a ship's cable...(p.271) - ...gërsheta të gjata si ballamar anijeje. (p.337), Like the prophet on the top of Peor Izz Huet would fain have spoken perversely at that moment...(p.279) – Si ai profeti në malin e Peorit, Izz Hueti do të kishte dashur ta fshihte atë çast të vërtetën...(p.347)

2. Translation as relative clauses

...there arose from within a ticking like the love-making of the grasshopper. (p.89) - ...u dëgjua njëfarë tik-taku që ngjante si këngë dashurie e ndonjë gjinkalle...(p.122) (which resembled the love song of a grasshopper) - , ...she could discern a surface like polished steel...(p.291) - ...mundi të shquante...një syprinë të sheshtë që dukej si petë e lëmuar çeliku...(p.360) (which looked like a sheet of polished steel),

3. As independent adverbial modifiers of manner

...in front of it the long red elevator like a Jacob's ladder, ...(p.345) - ...ngrihej, si shkalla e Jakovit, një elevator i gjatë, i kuq...(p.431) (...rose, like the Jacob's ladder, a long, red elevator)

We have already mentioned that there are 8 noun-like similes in our data. The way they are translated confirms once again what Pierini points out about the impossibility of a word-for-word translation and the need for further translational action. Three instances of noun-like similes have not been translated.

1....the band of milkers at this request burst into melody – in purely business-like tones...(p.112) - ...duke ju bindur porosisë, kori i mjelësve ia nisi këngës (obeying the order, the choir of milkers started singing)

2....till Clare, regarding for a moment the wave-like curl of her lashes...(p.130) - ...dhe Kleri, pasi u hodhi një vështrim qepallave të saj një çast...(p.171) (...and Clare, after having a look at her lashes for a moment, ...)

3. feeling sideways they encountered another tower-like pillar...(p.409) – duke ecur anash, ata ndeshën një tjetër shtyllë (p.499) (moving sideways they ran into another pillar)

The strategy followed on three other occasions is that of reducing the simile to its sense without using any linguistic means of comparison.

1. The lath-like stripling frowned (p.4) – Djaloshi i gjatë stërhell u vrenjt në fytyrë (p.12) (the tall skinny boy frowned)

2...the boy who kept the horse going outside put on moon-like eyes ... (p.135) - ...dhe çuni që shtynte kalin zgurdullonte sytë ... (p.178) (and the boy who kept the horse going opened his eyes wide)

3...though the curious dream-like fixity disappeared... (p.154) - ...megjithëse shprehja e menduar dhe ëndërruese iu zhduk... (p.202) (even though her thoughtful and dreamy expression disappeared)

The comparison form has been retained in two cases. The two of them have been translated as relative clauses by means of verbs resemble, look like.

1. Far away behind the first hills the cliff-like dwellings of Shaston broke the line of the ridge. (f.47) – Diku larg, prapa kodrinave të para që ngriheshin mbi sfondin e bregoreve shtëpitë e Shestonit që ngjanin si shkropa (p.47) (...the houses of Sheston which looked like cliffs)

2...and presently a pumpkin-like moon arose on the other hand. (p.182) - ...doli një hënë e përbindshme, që i ngjasonte një kungulli. (p.236) (a monstrous moon appeared, that resembled a pumpkin)

Similes with as, as ... as

The basic syntactic function of similes with as alone is that of the adverbial of manner. While in a number of them their function has been preserved, the translator seems to display a preference for translating them in the form of clauses of manner-comparison.

as adverbial modifiers of manner

they abandoned themselves to the air as a swimmer to the wave - në ajrin e freskët e ndienin veten si notari midis valëve, I send this message to them as a dying man to the dying - Unë ua dërgoj këtë porosi si një njeri që është në buzë të varrit, Tess resumed her position...as one in a dream - Tesi, duke ecur si në ëndërr, u kthye te vendi i saj i punës, Nightfall, which in the frost of winter comes as a fiend and in the warmth of summer as a lover - Në dimrin e ftohtë nata vjen si armik, në verën e ngrohtë vjen si dashnor

as clauses of manner-comparison

began to differentiate themselves as in a chemical process – filluan të diferencoheshin, thua se po ndodhte ndonjë proces kimik (as if a chemical reaction was happening), and smiled at her disquiet as at a foolish nightmare – dhe qeshi siç mund të qeshë njeriu me një makth që nuk ka asnjë bazë, (just as someone could laugh at a nightmare that has no basis) walking very slowly, without converse, one behind the other, as in a funeral procession - ecnin shumë ngadalë, pa folur fare dhe njëri prapa tjetrit, sikur po shkonin prapa një qivuri, (as if they were going

after a coffin), his arrival stirred the atmosphere of the Vicarage as the dive of the kingfisher stirs a quiet pool - ardhja e tij e papritur e tubulloi familjes e priftit ashtu siç bën një peshk, që duke u zhytur në ujë, e turbullon sipërfaqen e një liqeni të qetë (just as a fish does, which, diving into the water, disturbs the quiet surface of a lake)

In two cases they function as complements. This appears unchanged even in the translated text.

And the immense stack of straw where in the morning there had been nothing, appeared as the faeces of the same buzzing red glutton - Dhe qipia vigane e kashtës që ishte ngritur aty ku në mëngjez nuk kishte asgjë, ishte, si të thuash, një pjellë e atij llupësi të kuq gumëzhitës, though as approached on the other side from Blackmoor in her childhood they were as lofty bastions against the sky – kurse nga lugina e Blekmurit ngriheshin si kështjella, që spikatnin në sfondin e qiellit

The as...as similes are mainly subject complements. Their function has been retained even in the translation.

The stables...were as dignified as Chapels-of-Ease - Stallat...ngriheshin madhështore si kisha të vogla, they looked as luminous and beautiful as some Praxitelean creation - dukeshin të shndritshëm dhe të hijshëm si të qenë krijuar nga dora e Praksiteli, The Froom waters were clear as the pure River of Life - Ujrat e Varit, përkundrazi, ishin të kulluara si vetë Lumi i Jetës, he's rotten as touch-wood by now - është katandisur si ndonjë trung i kalbur, her arm...was as cold and damp to his mouth as a new-gathered mushroom - krahu i Tesit ...iu duk i ftohtë dhe i lagësht, si ndonjë kërpudhë e freskët

This is not the case though when they occur as independent qualifiers. There is only one instance in which the syntactic function has been preserved.

upon this beautiful feminine tissue, sensitive as a gossamer, and blank as snow - shpirti i bukur i kësaj femre, i ndjeshëm si cerga e merimangës dhe i pastër si dëbora

In two other instances independent qualifiers. have been replaced by relative clauses or comparison clauses.

1. the beams of the sun, almost as horizontal as the mead itself, ... - ndërsa rrezet e diellit që ishin gati po aq horizontale sa livadhet (...whereas the beams of the sun which were as horizontal as the meads...)

2. broke into horrible laughter – as unnatural and ghastly as a laugh in hell - ia krisi një të qeshuri të llahtarshëm, aq të panatyrshëm e të lemerishëm sa do të thoshe se ishte të qeshurit e skëterrës (so unnatural and ghastly that you would say it was a laugh in hell)

5. Conclusion

Tess of the d'Urbervilles abounds in similes and other comparative expressions.

With the help of computer programs specially designed for text analysis we were able to identify no less than 160 instances of such expressions. Similes were looked at from two angles, namely the comparison marker and syntactic function they fulfill in the clause. In terms of the comparison marker they fall into four types. The first and most frequently occurring type is the simile with like with 88 instances. The next type is that of the simile with as. There are 52 cases. Similes with as can be further subdivided into two subtypes: a. as + noun/noun phrase, b. as/- + adjective/adverb + as + noun/noun phrase. The third type is the simile with as if/ as though with at least 16 instances. The fourth type, with only 8 instances, is the noun-like simile.

Most of the similes function as adverbial modifiers of manner expressed by a noun or noun phrase and preceded by like/as. Similes with as if/though function as manner-comparison clauses. In some cases similes may also function as qualifiers, which can be simple or independent, as well as subject complements usually using verb such as be, look or appear.

67 out of 88 instances of similes with like have been translated with its direct Albanian equivalent *si*. This suggests this aspect of similes presents no considerable difficulty in translation. Similes that have been translated with the most variety are those with as and their subtypes. The comparison marker which is translated with the most variety is the subtype as/- + adjective/adverb + as + noun/noun phrase.

The majority of the similes with like, 50 out of 88 have been translated as adverbial modifiers of manner preserving thus the syntactic function they fulfill in the original text. This indicates that this may be a common point between the syntactic systems of English and Albanian which does make the translator's job easier. The translation of the rest of the similes displays two major patterns. One is that in which adverbial modifiers of manner have been translated as independent adverbials by separating them with commas. Another translation pattern is the translation as manner-comparison clauses. A third pattern is the translation with no comparison markers. Even originally independent adverbial modifiers of manner have undergone changes. The most frequent are the translations as manner-comparison clauses and as relative clauses.

Most of the similes that occur as qualifiers in the original have been translated as such into Albanian. The main deviation is that when they are translated as relative clauses, which constitutes an act of explicitation.

The noun-like similes turn out to be the most difficult to translate. A literal translation is impossible as in Albanian there are no linguistic means to enable it. Under these circumstances, the translator has resorted to other ways such as omitting them altogether or by paraphrasing their meaning. The simile has been kept in two cases only.

The main function of as similes in the source text is that of adverbial modifier of manner. In the target text they are translated either as such or as clauses of

manner-comparison. When they occur as complements, the function is preserved in the translated text.

On the basis of the above analyses, the following conclusions would be drawn:

1. The formal aspect of the similes, especially like/as similes does not present significant difficulty in their translation into Albanian. The overwhelming majority of these similes can be translated with their direct Albanian equivalent *si*.
2. The most frequently occurring deviation from this pattern is the translation as manner-comparison clause preceded by the linguistic means used in Albanian. However, it should be noted that this is not a forced choice but it is done mainly for stylistic purposes in order to avoid repetition.
3. The most significant shifts are to be found in the syntactic functions that similes fulfill in the target text as opposed to those in the original. Numerically, the most common shift is that from adverbial modifier of manner to independent adverbial modifier of manner.
4. The noun-like similes are irreproducible in the form they appear in the original. Their translation is realized in various ways ranging from their omission to recreation as a simile consisting of verbs like *seem/appear* and the comparison marker *like*.

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