

Leonard Rapi

nardirapi@yahoo.com

Department of Foreign Languages
Faculty of Social Sciences and Education
University of Gjirokaster, "Eqrem Çabej"

Harallamb Miçoni

miconisllambi@yahoo.gr

Department of Foreign Languages
Faculty of Social Sciences and Education
"University of Gjirokaster, "Eqrem Çabej"

Translation of synonymic collocations in Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the d'Urbervilles". A comparison of the Albanian and Spanish translations

Abstract

In this paper we are going to investigate the translation of synonymic collocations in Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" comparing the original with the translated text in Albanian and in Spanish. Synonymic collocations are a significant feature of Hardy's writing style. However, important as they are for the literary text where they occur, they often pose considerable problems during the process of translation into other languages. We will first focus on their formal as well as semantic features in the source text. Then, they will be compared with the Albanian and Spanish equivalents in order to evaluate the degree to which their formal-semantic structure and stylistic effects have been recreated in the respective target texts.

Keywords: *synonymic collocations, semantic traits, stylistic functions, denotation, connotation*

1. Introduction

This paper aims to investigate the translation of synonymic collocations in Thomas Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" into Albanian and Spanish. Synonymic collocations will first be analyzed in terms of their formal structure, semantic relationship between their constituents and the stylistic functions they fulfill in the source text. Next, their Albanian and Spanish translations will be analyzed to see how the formal, semantic and stylistic dimensions of the original expressions have been recreated in the translated texts. By comparing the Albanian and Spanish translations and analyzing the gains and losses in the process, we intend to shed some light on how the respective translators have dealt with this problem.

2. Theoretical Discussion

According to Antrushina et al., (2001:186) the main function of synonyms in language is to represent experience in its various aspects, shades and variations. Synonyms are used in two basic ways. The first is by selecting in a synonymic paradigm a specific lexical item which is thought to be well suited for a specific artistic function because it provides the right denotation and connotation. The second is by juxtaposing two or more of them in the same immediate context forming thus what Ullman (1962: 153) calls "synonymic collocations".

According to Ullman (1962:154), synonymic collocations in English go back to Middle Ages when a foreign word was accompanied by a synonymous word of Anglo-Saxon origin to explain what it meant. Over time it became a widespread phenomenon especially in literature found in various writers such as Chaucer, Shakespeare and others. ". Lloshi (2001: 136), too, recognizes the presence of synonymic collocations in Albanian authors from medieval to modern ones such as Pietër Bogdani, Naim Frashëri etc.

Discussing the use of this phenomenon for semantic-stylistic purposes, Ullman (1962: 153) says that synonymic collocations may serve as 'outlets for strong emotions'. A typical example is Hamlet's soliloquy which contains a synonymic collocation consisting of three lexical items:

O, that this too too solid flesh would melt,
Thaw, and resolve itself into dew!

Synonymic collocations may also be used in order to clarify, specify and intensify thoughts, ideas and emotions. Lloshi (2001:136) argues that because these synonymic collocations have common semantic components, placing them on the same syntagmatic plan makes their semantic components more salient and heightens the intensity of their expression. A direct consequence of the use of such synonymic collocations is that of enhancing the meaning of their constituents and making it more explicit (Ullman, 1962:154).

3. Methodology

The corpus of data consists of Thomas Hardy’s novel “Tess of the d’Urbervilles” and its translations into Albanian “Tesi i d’Erbervilleve” and Spanish “Tess, la de los d’Urberville”. 59 instances of synonymic collocations were selected in the source text, which were then mapped on to their respective translations into Albanian and Spanish. In terms of the number of their constituents, the synonymic collocations fall into two types. There are those that contain two lexical items and those with three lexical items. There are 44 instances of synonymic collocations that contain two lexical items and 15 that contain three lexical items. The tables below present a list of the synonymic collocations consisting of two and three lexical items.

Table 1: Synonymic Collocations with two Lexical Items

	ENGLISH	ALBANIAN	SPANISH
1	...still and stark...(p.28)	...i palëvizur dhe i ngurosur...(p.44)	...inmóvil y rígido (p.42)
2	...scratched and scraped...(p.29)	...nuk i kishin fshirë ende pllacket e gjakut...(p.44)	...aunque medio borrado (p.43)
3	...the acme and summit...(p.39)	Not translated.	...la cúspide (p.56)
4	...cursed and swore...(p.53)	...i gërthiti dhe e shau...(p.76)	Prorrumpió en denuestos y maldiciones...(p.75)
5	...hate and detest...(p.53)	...unë s’ju shoh dot me sy. Ju urrej. (p.76)	Es usted odioso! Le aborresco, ... (p.75)
6	...altering and improving...(p.55)	...me ndryshime dhe përmirësime...(p.78)	...disponiendo y arreglando...(p.77)
7	...owner and mistress...(p.55)	...pronarja dhe nikoqirja... (p.79)	...la dueña...(p.77)
8	...wrinkling and twitching her face...(p.56)	...duke rrudhur turirin... (p.80)	...frunciendo y contorsionando el rostro...(p.79)
9	...restless and uneasy...(p.63)	...u shqetësua...(p.88)	Sentíase inquieta y a disgusto...(p.87)
10	...staggerings and serpentine courses...(p.65)	...u merreshin këmbët dhe ecnin me zigzake.(p.90)	...les hacía dar tumbos y hacer eses...(p.89)
11	...loathe and hate...(p.78)	...përbuzja dhe urreja... (p.110)	...no me tendría a mi misma ese odio y horror que me tengo...(p.105)
12	...crushing! killing...(p.81)	...Janë mizore! Vrasëse... (p.114)	Espantosas! Mortales! (p.110)
13	...strange and unwonted...(p.82)	...të çuditshme, hijerëndë (p.115)	...extraños y singulares...(p.110)
14	...teave and slave...(p.83)	...lodhem e mundohem...(p.116)	...estoy echa una esclava...(p.112)
15	...despised and disliked...(p.84)	...kishte ndjerë përbuzje e neveritje...(p.117)	...llena de desprecio y odio, ... (p.113)
16	...dust and ashes...(p.84)	...i vdekur...(p.117)	...era como si no existiese...(p.113)
17	...flashes and flickerings of envy...(p.85)	...shfaqjet e lehta të zilisë...(p.119)	...los rubores y pujos de envidia...(p.114)
18	...stranger and alien...(p.91)	...të huaj, të ardhur... (p.125)	...extraña...(p.122)
19	...wearing and wasting...(p.93)	...çfilitur dhe vrososur... (p.128)	...haberse torturado...(p.124)
20	...tender and puny...(p.94)	...e dobët dhe e brishtë...(p.130)	...lo delicado...(p.126)
21	...economizing and stinting...(p.118)	...po kursejmë dhe po lemë veten në të keq...(p.157)	...las economías...(p.158)

22	...typical and unvarying...(p.120)	...si tip i pandryshueshëm...(p.159)	El tipo aquel del palurdo (p.161)
23	...foibles or vices...(p.120)	...të metat ose veset...(p.160)	...las flaquezas y vicios...(p.161)
24	...easy and effortless...(p.124)	...më e lehtë...më e vogël...(p.164)	...mas fácilmente...(p.167)
25	...rich and prosperous...(p.128)	Not translated	...a lo grande...(p.171)
26	...dejected, disheartened...(p.128)	...bregosej dhe pikëllohej...(p.169)	...empequeñecida y desalentada, ...(p.171)
27	...developed and matured... (p.131)	...Po vinte vera...(p.173)	Iba adelantando otra vez el buen tiempo...(p.175)
28	...struck and whizzed...(p.132)	...posa binte zilja e sahatit...(p.175)	...repiqueteaba...(p.176)
29	...enmity or malice...(p.149)	...as për armiqësi, as për shpirtligësi (p.195)	...ni enemistad, ni malquerencia...(p.197)
30	...tossed and turned...(p.150)	...silleshin e vërtiteshin...(p.197)	Revolvíanse...(p.199)
31	...so humble, so insignificant...(p.157)	...të thjeshtë dhe pa stoli...(p.197)	...tan humilde y insignificante...(p.208)
32	...the aged and lichened...(p.157)	...e vjetra dhe plot myshk...(p.208)	Los viejos ladrillos del alero vestidos de líquenes (p.208)
33	...decayed and disappeared...(p.170)	...ra nga vakti dhe u shua...(p.223)	...vinieron a menos y desaparecieron...(p.224)
34	...amazed and enraptured...(p.198)	...e mahniste dhe e magjepste...(p.255)	...arrebataba y desconcertaba...(p.259)
35	...manners and habits...(p.210)	...zakonet dhe të sjellat...(p.269)	...hábitos y modales...(p.273)
36	...speech and phrases...(p.210)	...fjalët dhe frazat...(p.269)	...manera de hablar...(p.273)
37	...temerarious and risky...(p.217)	...punë me rrezik...(p.277)	...temerario y arriesgado...(p.282)
38	...all my faults and blunders...(p.217)	...gëithë gabimet dhe fajet e mija...(p.278)	...todas mis faltas y deshaciertos...(p.283)
39	...they'll squint and glane...(p.267)	...do t'i shkelin syrin njëri-tjetrit, do të më shikojnë shtrembër...(p.331)	Not translated.
40	...rough and brutal...(p.288)	...të vrazhdë e mizorë...(p.356)	...rudos y brutales...(p.370)
41	...twisted and spun...(p.299)	...e silte dhe e vërtiste përçark...(p.370)	...retorcíalas en excéntricos giros...(p.383)
42	...the sauciest and most caustic...(p.302)	...më guximtarja dhe më shpotitësja...(p.374)	...la más irónica...(p.387)
43	...less starched and ironed than...(p.311)	...aq i spitulluar dhe i krekosur...(p.386)	...menos estirado y severo...(p.399)
44	...bitter and black...(p.319)	...merrni në qafë njerëz si unë...(p.398)	...amargarles la vida a criaturas como yo, ...(p.408)

Table 2: Synonymic Collocations with three Lexical Items

1	...clear, bracing, ethereal...(p.105)	..më i pastër, më i lehtë, më i shëndetshëm.. (p.141)	...claro, diáfano, etéreo...(p.141)
2	...exhausted, aged, and attenuated...(p.107)	..i drobitur, i plakur, gjysmë i shterruar...(p.143)	...caduco, exhausto y mortecino...(p.144)
3	...nebulous, preoccupied, vague...(p.116)	..e vagët, e hutuar, e papërcaktuar...(p.155)	...nebuloso, preocupado y confuso...(p.155)
4	...stultified, shocked, paralyzed...(p.118)	Not translated.	...estupefácto, paralizado, anonadado. (p.157)
5	...argument, persuasion, entreaty...(p.118)	...argumente, këshilla, lutje...(p.157)	...trató de argumentar, de persuadir, apelando incluso a la súplica...(p.158)
6	...dim, flattened, constrained...(p.125)	...të paqartë, të turbullt e të mbytur...(p.165)	...débiles y cohibidas...(p.167)
7	...comfortably, placidly, even merrily...(p.131)	...të qetë e pothuajse të gëzuar...(p.173)	...disfrutaban de plácido y risueño bienestar...(p.175)
8	...novel, fresh and interesting...(p.132)	...të freskët dhe origjinale...(p.174)	...un nuevo y interesante...(p.176)
9	...spectral, half-compounded, aqueous...(p.133)	...të mugët fantastike...(p.175)	la acuosa luz spectral...(p.177)
10	...distracting, infatuating, maddening...(p.153)	...do të mbetej i mahnitur, do të dashurohej, gati do të luante mendsh ...(p.201)	...de un enloqueedor hechizo. (p.203)
11	..heterodoxy, faults and weaknesses...(p.157)	Not translated.	...defectos y debilidades y heterodoxia, ...(p.209)
12	..unwarped, uncontrorted, untrammelled...(p.162)	...të pagjymtuar dhe të pa ndrydhur...(p.213)	...libre y desembarazado ...(p.214)
13	...black, sinister and forbidding...(p.238)	...e zezë, e mbrapshtë, e neveritshme...(p.302)	...negra, siniestra, repulsiva...(p.308)
14	...ill with thinking, eaten out with thinking, withered by thinking...(p.250)	...ato e sëmurën, e tretën, zhdukën tërë butësinë...(p.316)	...llegando casi a ponerse enfermo de tanto cavarlar...(p.323)
15	...had suffered, died and wasted away...(p.352)	Not translated.	...habían padecido, muerto y desaparecido...(p.449)

4. Analysis of the results

It has already been mentioned that synonymic collocations fulfill their rhetorical functions by means of juxtaposing two or three or even more semantically related lexical items. Bearing this in mind, our analysis of the Albanian and Spanish expression focused on two elements. First, the translated expressions were examined with regard to the number of their lexical constituents. Second, the Albanian and Spanish expressions were compared with the English expressions and each other in terms of their semantic content.

4.1 Translation of the formal features

The analysis of our data reveals that in the Albanian translation expressions with two lexical constituents occur on 31 occasions (1, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43), while in the Spanish translation on 22 (1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 23, 26, 29, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 43). These figures suggest that the Albanian translations of the two-item synonymic collocations are closer to the original expressions than the Spanish ones in terms of their structural components. There are 8 instances of translated expressions consisting of three lexical items in the Albanian translation (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 13, 14) and just as many in the Spanish translation (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 13, 15). Here we have included even instances in which there are shifts in the part of speech but which, nonetheless, have the same number of lexical items as their equivalents in the source text. An example of this would be instance 15 in both translated texts where noun + verb in Albanian and adjective + prepositional phrase in Spanish have been used to translate verbs. Another case is instance 4 in the Spanish translation, in which verbs have been translated by a phrasal group consisting of verbs + preposition + noun.

Our analysis also focused on the instances which were not translated as synonymic collocations. The most frequent translation pattern is that when the English synonymic collocation is rendered by a phrase or a single word. Examples where in both translations synonymic collocations have been reduced to phrases or words are:

- (1) scratched and scraped – (Alb) nuk i kishin fshirë ende pllacket e gjakut (had not wiped out the blood stains yet), (Spa) aunque medio borrado (even though half wiped out).
- (16) dust and ashes – (Alb) i vdekur (dead), (Spa) era como si no existiese (it was as if he didn't exist)
- (22) typical and unvarying – (Alb) si tip i pandryshueshëm (as an unchanging person), (Spa) El tipo aquel del palurdo (that unrefined person)
- (27) The season developed and matured – (Alb) Po vinte vera (summer was coming), (Spa) lba adelantando otra vez el buen tiempo (the good weather was late again)
- (44) bitter and black – (Alb) merrni në qafë njerëz si unë (do harm to people like me), (Spa) amargarles la vida a criaturas como yo (to embitter the life of people like me)

However, the above are outnumbered by the occasions when the deviation from the original occurs in one of the translations and not in the other. Instance 4, wrinkling and twitching her face, has been translated into Albanian as duke rrudhur turirin (wrinkling her face), which indicates that only the first component of the English

synonymic collocation has been rendered, duke rrudhur (wrinkling), whereas the second, twitching, has been omitted. The Spanish translation, on the other hand, goes like frunciendo y contorsionando el rostro, which is almost a literal translation. This phenomenon occurs also in the translation of restless and uneasy, which is u shqetësua (grew worried) in Albanian, but sentíase inquieta y a disgusto (she felt uneasy and disturbed) in Spanish. Another occurrence of this translation pattern would be 17, flashes and flickering of envy, which in Albanian has been translated as shfaqjet e lehta të zilisë (slight manifestations of envy) whereas in Spanish los rubores y pujos de envidia (the embarrassments and struggles of envy). Cases of the same phenomenon but in the other direction – there are two lexical items in the Albanian and one word or phrase in Spanish – are instances 7, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24.

- (7) owner and mistress – (Alb) pronarja dhe nikoqirja (owner and administrator) – (Spa) la dueña (the owner)

- (18) stranger and alien – (Alb) të huaj e të ardhur (strangers and aliens) – (Spa) extraña (strange)

- (19) wearing and wasting – (Alb) cfilitur dhe vrerosur (exhausted and embittered) – (Spa) haberse torturado (having tortured herself)

- (20) tender and puny – (Alb) e dobët dhe e brishtë (weak and fragile) – (Spa) lo delicado (delicate)

- (21) economizing and stinting – (Alb) po kursejmë dhe po lemë veten në të keq (we are saving and depriving ourselves) – (Spa) las economías (the economy)

- (24) easy and effortless – (Alb) më e lehtë, më e vogël (easier, smaller) – (Spa) mas fácilmente (more easily)

In our opinion, the biggest loss in the translation of synonymic collocations is related to those consisting of three lexical items. 8 out of 15 instances in each translation have been rendered as expressions containing three elements. In the other seven the number has been reduced to two leaving out one of the elements. Contrary to our expectations, translatability does not seem to be a major factor in determining which of the lexical elements is omitted. Even though common sense would have it that the most likely item to be omitted would be the one that is the hardest to translate, this is usually not the case. If we refer to the Albanian translation of instance No.7, comfortably, placidly, even merrily, we find that it has been rendered by two lexical items, të qetë e pothuajse të gëzuar (in peace and almost content), which serve as equivalents of placidly and even merrily respectively. The first item has not been translated although it does not pose any difficulty. The same would be said about the Spanish translation. Even here the number of the lexical items has been reduced to two. The first, de placido, corresponds to placidly but this is where the similarity ends as the second item, risueño bienestar (promising well-being) does not seem to bear any semantic relationship to any of the lexical items of the original expression. Another interesting case would be instance No.8, novel,

fresh and interesting. The Albanian translation is të freskët dhe origjinale (fresh and original). A comparison between the two reveals that only the second item, fresh, has been preserved, të freskët (fresh). The first, novel, and the third, interesting have not been translated. For interesting there is origjinale (original). The same occurs in the Spanish translation, un nuevo y interesante (a new and interesting). Here again, the first and third have been translated by their direct equivalents in Spanish while the second fresh is missing. The only example which, we believe, runs counter to this tendency would be instance No.9 and more specifically the lexical items half-compounded and aqueous. Both these terms are technical in nature and are characteristic of Hardy's preference for rare words often of Latin origin (Chapman, 1990). However, suited as they are to their particular context, they pose difficulty in translation, especially in Albanian as there are no direct equivalents for them. Faced with such a problem, the Albanian translator has opted for të mugët, fantastike (dark, fantastic), which, because of their meaning serve as replacements for the first word, spectral. The other two have not been translated. The Spanish translation, which reads la acuosa luz spectral (the spectral aqueous light) stays relatively closer to the original because two items out of three have been translated, spectral, aqueous, and also because they have been translated with their Spanish equivalents.

In conclusion to this section, the analyzed data indicate that the Albanian translations of the synonymic collocations with two lexical items are closer to the English original expressions than the Spanish translations. The Albanian translator has tried to stick to the original more than the Spanish translator, who translates with more variety. On the other hand, it is hard to take a position regarding the translation of the synonymic collocations with three lexical items. Here both translations seem on a par with the same number of instances translated with the same number of lexical items as their English counterparts. It is true that there are three instances (4, 11, 15) in the Albanian translation which have not been translated, but we believe they cannot be considered as conscious omissions because they occur in a chapter of the book that has not been translated as a whole.

4.2 Translation of Semantic features

4.2.1 Synonymic collocations with two lexical items

Next, the semantic content of the translations into Albanian and Spanish was analyzed. They were examined with regard to their semantic similarities and/or differences in relation to the synonymic collocations in the source text and to each other. First, we looked at both translations in order to identify the instances which could be considered literal recreations of the source-text expressions not only in their formal, but also their semantic-stylistic features. There are 18 instances of synonymic collocations with two lexical items in the Albanian translation which would count as quite close equivalents of their source-text counterparts. They are (1, 6, 7, 11, 14, 18, 19, 20, 23, 29, 30, 32, 34, 35, 38, 40, 41). In the Spanish translation there are 15 cases (1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 23, 29, 31, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40). Four instances are of Latin origin and have been translated by their direct Spanish equivalents.

- (23) foibles and vices – (Spa) las flaquezas y vicios
- (29) enmity or malice – (Spa) – ni enemistad ni malquerencia
- (31) so humble, so insignificant – (Spa) – tan humilde y insignificante

The rest of the expressions translated into Albanian and Spanish display semantic deviations of varying degrees from the original synonymic collocations. Closer to the above category would be those instances in which the meaning has been preserved but has been expressed with a different part of speech. Cases vary from those in which both elements undergo shifts in their parts of speech to the ones in which only one lexical item has been changed. In the Albanian translation we have counted three such cases. Two of them exhibit shifts in both lexical items.

- (6) altering and improving – (Alb) me ndryshime dhe përmirësime (with changes and improvements) [present participle to prepositional phrase]
- (15) despised and disliked – (Alb) kishte ndjerë përbuzje e neveritje (had felt contempt and disgust [verb to have + noun phrase]
In the other, only one of the elements has been translated with a different part of speech.
- (32) the aged and lichened – (Alb) e vjetra dhe plot myshk (old and full of lichens)
In the Spanish translation the situation is more or less the same with three translations where shifts occur in both lexical items,
- (4) cursed and swore – (Spa) prorrumpio en denuestos y maldiciones (burst into curses and maledictions) [verb to verb + prepositional phrase]
- (11) loathe and hate – (Spa) no me tendria a mi misma ese odio y horror (I wouldn't have in me this hate and fear)
- (15) despised and disliked – (Spa) llena de desprecio y odio (full of contempt and hatred) [verb to prepositional phrase] and one in which there is a shift in one element.
- (5) hate and detest – (Spa) Es usted odioso! Le aborresco (You are hateful. I abhor you) [hate is translated with the adjective form]

A variant of these translation forms is that when the translated expression is not just another part of speech, but it is rather an explication, an elaboration of the meaning of the original through various linguistic means. One way is by translating one of the elements as an idiomatic phrase, while another as a whole phrase. There are three cases in Albanian,

- (5) hate and detest – (Alb) unë s'ju shoh dot me sy. Ju urrej (I can't stand the sight of you. I hate you) [hate has been translated with an idiomatic expression]

- (21) economizing and stinting – (Alb) po kursejmë dhe po lemë veten në të keq (we are saving and depriving ourselves [stinting is translated as a phrase])

- (33) decayed and disappeared – (Alb) ra nga vakti dhe u shua (were impoverished and vanished) [decayed is translated as an idiomatic phrase] and two in Spanish.

- (33) decayed and disappeared – (Spa) vinieron a menos y desaparecieron (were impoverished and disappeared)[decayed is translated as an idiomatic phrase]

- (10) staggerings and serpentine courses – (Spa) les hacia dar tumbos y hacer eses (made them lurch and zigzag)

Further along the semantic continuum are the translations in which the original synonymic collocations have been reduced to a single word or phrase. In terms of their semantic content they are either a paraphrase of the meaning of the synonymic collocation as a whole or a recreation of one of the constituent elements only. As we indicated in the section on the formal features of the synonymic collocations, they are more numerous in the Spanish translation. The tables 3 and 4 below show the instances pertaining to the two above-mentioned categories in both translations.

Table 3

Albanian Translation		
	Paraphrase of the meaning of synonymic collocation	Recreation of the meaning of one of the lexical items
1	(2) <i>scratched and scraped</i> – <i>Nuk i kishin fshirë ende pllackat e gjakut</i> (had not wiped out the bloodstains yet)	(8) <i>wrinkling and twitching her face</i> – <i>duke trudhur turirin</i> (wrinkling her face)
2	(9) <i>restless and uneasy</i> – <i>u shqetësua</i> (she grew worried)	(22) <i>typical and unvarying</i> – <i>si tip i pandryshueshëm</i> (as an unchanging/unvarying type)
3	(16) <i>dust and ashes</i> – <i>i vdekur</i> (dead)	
4	(17) <i>flashes and flickerings of envy</i> – <i>shfaqet e lehta të zilisë</i> (slight manifestations of envy)	
5	(28) <i>struck and whizzed</i> – <i>posa binte zilja e sahatit</i> (as soon as the alarm went off)	
6	(37) <i>temerarious and risky</i> – <i>punë me rrezik</i> (risky business)	

Table 4

Spanish Translation		
	Paraphrase of the meaning of synonymic collocation	Recreation of the meaning of one of the lexical items
1	(2) <i>scratched and scraped – aunque medio borrado</i> (although half wiped)	(3) <i>the acme and summit – la cúspide</i> (the summit)
2	(14) <i>teave and slave – estoy hecha una esclava</i> (I have become a slave)	(18) <i>stranger and alien – extraña</i> (stranger)
3	(16) <i>dust and ashes – era como si no existiese</i> (it was as if he did not exist)	(20) <i>tender and puny – lo delicado</i> (tender)
4	(19) <i>wearing and wasting – haberse torturado</i> (having tortured herself)	(21) <i>economizing and stinting – hacemos las economías</i> (we economize)
5	(36) <i>speech and phrases – manera de hablar</i> (way of speaking)	(28) <i>struck and whizzed – repiqueteaba</i> (rang)
6	(41) <i>twisted and spun – retorciálas en excéntricos giros</i> (went round in circles)	(30) <i>tossed and turned – revolviarse</i> (turned)
7		(42) <i>the sauciest and most caustic – la más ironica</i> (the most ironic)

As the tables indicate, the Spanish translator tends to translate with more variety, while the Albanian translator seems to be more rigorous in his efforts to recreate synonymic collocations as a whole in terms of their formal structure as well as their semantic content.

Finally, there are a few translated expressions which, in our opinion, display various kinds of semantic deviation from the source-text expressions. It could be denotative or connotative and might occur in one or both lexical items. 4, 12, 13 would be examples of translated expressions in which there is a semantic shift in one of the constituents. For instance, for (4) *curse and swear* there is *i gërthiti dhe e shau*. Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (1999: 337) defines *curse* with *swear* as ‘using offensive language, especially when one is angry’ (1999: 1455). It is not clear though whether *curse* in the original is used strictly in this sense and not in its second sense, which, according to LDCE (1999: 337) is, to ask God or a magical power to harm someone’. If we consider the Albanian translation, only the second lexical item is close semantically to the original expression. The first item, *gërthiti*, means to shout or yell at somebody, which presupposes anger and loudness, but otherwise bears no relationship to either of the original lexical items. *Crushing* in (12) *crushing and killing* is translated as *mizore* (cruel) in Albanian and *espantosas* (dreadful) in Spanish. LDCE (1999:332) defines *crushing* as ‘very

hard to deal with and making you lose hope and confidence'. In the context of the novel it is used to refer to the overwhelming effect words from the Bible have on the main character of the novel, Tess. Even though the Albanian *mizore* (cruel) and the Spanish *espantosas* (dreadful) take up certain semantic traits of the original, showing no mercy and being fearful, they are secondary and it is clear that these lexical items deviate significantly from the original. Unwonted in (13) strange and unwonted has been translated as *hijerëndë*. LDCE (1999:1579) defines it as unusual and not what you expect to happen. According to the Dictionary of Albanian Language (2006: 386), *hijerëndë* figuratively means looking solemn or sublime. It is obvious that the Albanian word has no semantic relationship to the original one. This is not the case with the Spanish translation, though, where we find *singulares* (strange, quaint, odd, peculiar).

There are two synonymic collocations, (27) the season developed and matured and (44) make the life bitter and black to people like me, which have been translated as single phrases, respectively (Alb) *po vinte vera* (summer was coming) and (Spa) *lba adelantando otra vez el buen tiempo* (good weather was being late again). Both translations seem like they have little to do with the meaning of the source-text expression. However, on closer examination, it could be said that somehow the translations paraphrase the meaning of the original. The Albanian translation sounds closer to the original than the Spanish one. Yet, both equally miss out on the metaphorical effect of the original.

4.2.2 Synonymic collocations with three lexical items

In the analysis of the semantic aspects of the translation of these synonymic collocations we first focused on the instances translated with three lexical items. In our opinion, instances 2, 3, 5 and 13 in both translations, are the closest to the original. Thus, the Albanian translation for (2) exhausted, aged and attenuated is *i drobitur, i plakur, gjysmë i shteruar*. There is a high degree of semantic equivalence between the lexical constituents, even though their order in the translated expression may not reflect that of the synonymic collocation in the source-text. The English – Albanian Dictionary (2000:343) translates exhausted as *i kapitur, i dërrmuar, i shteruar*. The third item, to which *gjysmë* (half) is the one that has been used in the translation of the synonymic collocations.

For attenuated EAD (2000:59) gives *i ligur, i dobësuar*, which emphasize loss of strength as a result of illness, age etc. The adjective *i drobitur* derives from the verb *drobit* defined by the Dictionary of Albanian Language (2006: 218) as *raskapit* (exhaust), *dërrmoj* (wear out, exhaust), *dobësoj* (wear out). Based on this, it is not absolutely clear whether *i drobitur* replaces exhausted and *gjysmë i shteruar* replaces attenuated or it is the other way round. The Spanish translation is *caduco, exhausto, y mortecino* (decrepit, exhausted, and weak/dying). As the back-translation shows, even the Spanish translation does not stick to the order of the source-text expression; the second and third items are used for exhausted and attenuated, whereas *caduco* (decrepit) for aged. No. 13 seems to display the highest degree of similarity not only to the original but also to each other.

The main semantic component underlying (3) nebulous, preoccupied, vague, is that of vagueness, lack of clearly defined contours. This is especially the case for nebulous and vague. The second lexical item, preoccupied, adds a somewhat different dimension to the collocation. This meaning relationship, though, has been kept in both the Albanian translation, *e vagët, e hutuar, e papërcaktuar* and the Spanish translation, *nebuloso, preocupado, y confuso*.

There are also other instances consisting of three items that, in Albanian or Spanish but not in both, manifest a fair degree of semantic similarity to the English expressions. The Albanian translation of instances 6 and 10 would illustrate this point. No.6 has been translated as *të paqartë, të turbullt, e të mbytur*. The synonymic collocation in the source-text refers to musical notes and the main semantic trait is their lack of sharpness. The Albanian translation succeeds in conveying this same semantic component by lexical means that stay fairly close to their English counterparts, even though they may not be taken as perfect equivalents. The Spanish translation consists of two items, *débiles y cohibidas* (weak and inhibited), which summarize the semantic essence of the original without recreating it in its entirety.

There are two instances in the Spanish translation which are felt to be quite close to the English collocations mainly due to the use of the Spanish direct equivalents. Examples are Nos.4 and 11. Instance No.4 *stultified, shocked, paralyzed* is translated as *estupefacto, paralizado, anonadado*, while No.11 *heterodoxy, faults, and weaknesses* as *defectos, debilidades y heterodoxia*. One thing to be noted is the fact that while the translations stay quite close to the original expressions semantically, the order of the lexical elements is different. In the Albanian translation the above synonymic collocations have not been translated.

Some other synonymic collocations with three lexical items have been rendered as expressions consisting of two constituents. Instances in which this occurs in both translations are 7, 8, 9 and 12. No.7, *lived comfortably, placidly even merrily* has been translated respectively as *jetonin të qetë e pothuajse të gëzuar* in Albanian and *disfrutaban de placido y risueño bienestar*. The first thing that catches the eye is the reduction of the expression into two elements. Secondly, a shift in the part of speech is noticed in the translated expressions. What are adverbs in the original have been rendered as adjectives into Albanian and prepositional phrases into Spanish. The Albanian translation recreates the second and third item while leaving out the first, *comfortably*. The Spanish translation seems to stray somewhat from the original in two aspects. The first is the use of the verb *disfrutaban* (took advantage of). Secondly, the semantic essence of the English lexical items has been summarized in one single word, *bienestar* (well-being, welfare) which is modified by two adjectives *placido* (placid, serene) and *risueño* (promising). A typical case is No.12. For *unwarped, uncontorted, untrammeled* we find (Alb) *të pagjymtuar dhe të pa ndrydhur* (not crippled and unrestrained) and (Spa) *libre y desembarazado* (free and unrestrained). What both translations have in common is the fact that the first element translates the first and second item of the synonymic collocation. In the context of the novel the synonymic collocation refers to life and existence. The difference, if any, lies in that the Albanian uses a somewhat more specific term,

whereas the Spanish employs a more general one.

5. Conclusion

Synonymic collocations constitute an important stylistic feature of Hardy's novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. However, they present the translator with a challenge due to their complex structure and multifaceted aspects of meaning that have to be recreated in the target texts. In the present paper we tried to analyze the way they were dealt with in an Albanian and a Spanish translation.

As we have already said, synonymic collocations fulfill their stylistic-communicative function by juxtaposing two or more semantically related lexical items. Therefore, an ideal translation of them would be one which produces an expression with the same number of lexical constituents and the same semantic content. Based on this premise, we set out to investigate the degree to which this was achieved in both translations.

As far as their structural make-up is concerned, we found the number of synonymic collocations consisting of two lexical items translated as expressions with two lexical items greater in Albanian than in Spanish. This is something that ran counter to our expectations as we had thought that as Spanish is a Latin language and as a considerable number of the lexical items in the synonymic collocations are of Latin origin, they would be translated mostly with their direct Spanish equivalents. It also shows that the Albanian translator has tried to stick to the original more than his Spanish counterpart. The same cannot be said about the translation of the synonymic collocations with three lexical items. We found eight instances in both translations containing three lexical items.

The most common deviation from the original is the translation of the synonymic collocations as a single word or phrase. Due to the greater number of collocations translated into Albanian as two-item expressions, this occurs more in Spanish than in Albanian. There are a few cases where this happens simultaneously in both translations. However, the cases when this happens in one of the translations but not in the other are more numerous. The biggest loss in this aspect is related to the synonymic collocations with three lexical items. There are seven instances in the Spanish translation that have been rendered with less than three lexical items. The situation seems worse in Albanian where there is no translation at all for three instances.

We have looked at the semantic content of the translated expressions as a continuum; on one pole there lie the ones which are closer to the original expressions, and then, further along the continuum there are those which display varying degrees of semantic deviation. The translated expressions that may count as close equivalents to the original ones are those that have been translated with the most obvious options and could be considered literal recreations of the original synonymic collocations. There are 18 instances in the Albanian translation as opposed to 15 in the Spanish translation that meet the above criteria. This finding is in line with the first one about

the translation of the formal features of the synonymic collocation and constitutes further support for the hypothesis that in general the Albanian translation stays closer to the original than the Spanish translation. Besides, it indicates once again that the fact that the language into which the synonymic collocations are translated does not seem to play any major role. The closest variant to this category is the one that consists of lexical items semantically close to their original counterparts but differing from them in their part of speech. Further along the meaning continuum there are a few cases which display varying degrees of semantic shifts in separate components or in their entirety. These also constitute the opposite pole of this semantic continuum.

Finally, on the basis of the above analysis, we would conclude that:

1. The Albanian translator stays closer to the original than the Spanish translator. The latter prefers to translate with more variety.
2. The fact that the Albanian translation is closer to the English original is first seen in that more English synonymic collocations have been translated as such into Albanian than into Spanish. Furthermore, this is not restricted to the translation of their structural features, but extends over to their semantic content. This is not just a corollary of the first but is related to the Albanian translator's extra efforts to stick to the original.
3. Contrary to our expectations, the fact that the synonymic collocations are being translated into Spanish does not seem to affect their degree of equivalence in any significant way.

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