

On Points of Contact between Scientific and Technical Translation and Cognitive Linguistics

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ABSTRACT

This paper reports on potential points of contact between scientific and technical translation (STT) and cognitive linguistics (CL) and attempts to answer the question to what extent cognitive linguistics may be usefully applied to the study of STT. To do so, the paper surveys various theoretical components of the cognitive linguistic framework and illustrates how these components can be applied in modelling different contextual and textual aspects of scientific and technical translation. From a contextual perspective special consideration is given to the concept of *common ground* and the field of *cognitive semantics*, which can be used to model shared knowledge and implicit knowledge in the knowledge-intensive field of STT. From a textual perspective the emphasis will be on the cognitive linguistic notion of *linguistic construal*, which can be used to model relevant linguistic aspects of STT from a cognitively plausible point of view. Several prototypical examples from the Cologne Specialized Translation Corpus (CSTC) will be discussed in cognitive linguistic terms in order to demonstrate the explanatory power of this framework in the context of translation studies.

KEYWORDS: cognitive linguistics, cognitive semantics, common ground, linguistic construal, scientific and technical translation, theory of domains