



SF Estrangement in Literary Translation: Translation of Neologies in the Finnish Version of *Dune*

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Abstract: This study analyzes the translation of neologies in the literary translation of the science fiction (SF) novel *Dune* (1965). As one of the most important linguistic elements in SF, neologies contribute to the worldbuilding of SF and create the estrangement from reality that is characteristic of the SF genre. Evaluating the translation of neologies is hence used as a tool to evaluate the transfer of the source text's (ST) estranging properties to the target text (TT). When the ST's neological estrangement is retained as a genre-specific feature of SF in the TT, the ST estrangement becomes accessible also for the TT reader. The study reveals that the translation has predominantly retained neologies, thus retaining the neological estrangement of the ST in the TT. The material of the study consists of the neologies in Frank Herbert's *Dune* and its Finnish translation *Dyyni* (2021 [1982]), which were analyzed to determine whether they retain or recreate SF estrangement.

Keywords: translation, estrangement, neology, science fiction

1. Introduction

The number of studies on different aspects of the translation of science fiction (SF) has been growing during the last decade. These studies have focused, for example, on the translation of SF tropes (Masmoudi), geopolitical influences on the translation of SF (Cordasco) and the translation of neologies into German (Schüler). Neologies can be considered “the intuitive feature” (Stockwell 106) of SF language, and this study focuses on the translation of neologies from the English source text (ST) to the Finnish target text (TT). Neologies can thus be

regarded as an important literary genre-defining element of SF, conveying the voice of the genre (Korpi, “Neologies”) through which the readers of SF recognize the genre and differentiate it from others (Stockwell 108). Neologies have also been considered to be the main translation problem when translating SF (Schüler, “Übersetzungsproblem”), and they are an essential means of indicating to readers that a text is science fiction (“Science Fiction” 4). The term *neology* refers both to the creation of new words and to the new words themselves, that is, *neologisms* (Stockwell 109). In this article, neology is used in the latter meaning.

The significance of neologies in SF has been studied from different perspectives. For the genre critic Istvan Csicsery-Ronay, neologies represent “the first beauty of science fiction” and “an aspect of SF that audiences desire from the genre” (5). The importance of neologies in SF worldbuilding has also been recognized by Stockwell, who argues that SF “creates new worlds by conjuring and coining new words” (125). Thus, I postulate that neologies are important in building up the *estrangement* of an SF text’s narrative world, which means that readers of SF are estranged from reality by means of “normalizing the alien” (Spiegel 376). The fictive neologies are linguistic representations of the new phenomenon, *the novum* (Suvin 79). They are the voice of the novum and the estrangement produced by it. Darko Suvin’s theory of *cognitive estrangement* has been criticized for vagueness by Simon Spiegel (369–372), who argues that instead of estranging the familiar, SF “*makes the strange familiar*” (372, emphasis original), *naturalizing* the strange and making the familiar strange by means of *defamiliarization* (372). In this study, estrangement is hence seen from this “spiegelistic” point of view, and the translations of neologies are analyzed accordingly.

This study follows Peter Stockwell’s categorization of neology into *neologisms* and *neosemes* (109). According to Stockwell and Csicsery-Ronay, neology in SF operates by either neosemes or neologisms. Neosemy refers to the development of new meanings for existing words (Stockwell 109). Hence, neosemes represent both their historical aspects and the possible futures they might have, inviting the reader to decipher the connection. For example, *spice* and *poison snooper* in Frank Herbert’s SF novel *Dune* (1965) are neosemes. Neologisms, in turn, are new words which do not have histories (Csicsery-Ronay 19). Their strength in producing SF estrangement lies in their ability to generate imaginary differences (19). As an example, *baliset*, a musical instrument in *Dune*, is a neologism.

Ian Campbell notes that the SF genre largely developed within English and Anglophone cultures (7). As can be deduced from Jari Koponen’s bibliography of SF in Finland, a large portion of the SF published in the country also comes from Anglophone cultures. Koponen notes that since Finland gained independence in 1917, translations of Anglo-American SF have dominated the translated SF genre in Finland, preventing the Finnish audience from “seeing what happens elsewhere” (115, own translation).¹ Finnish readers are thus

¹ “Autonomianajan käännettyä tieteiskirjallisuusaineistoa tarkastellessa kiinnittyi huomio siihen, kuinka kansainvälistä materiaali oli. Euroopan eri maiden ja yhdysvaltalaisen tieteiskirjallisuuden käännosten ja esittelyjen kesken vallitsi tasapaino, ja tarjonta oli monipuolista. Tätä unohdettua perintöä olisi syytä kunnioittaa nykyään enemmän, sillä angloamerikkalaisen aineiston yksipuolinen ylivalta estää meitä näkemästä, mitä muualla maailmassa tapahtuu.” (Koponen and Sisättö, 115)

accustomed to aspects of SF that originate in Anglophone cultures. Furthermore, due to the long tradition of translating SF in Finland (Koponen and Sisättö), Finnish readers do not necessarily acknowledge that they are reading a translation rather than the ST. Therefore, it can be further deduced that translated Anglophone SF strongly affects the perception of the genre in Finland.

Based on this argument, the current study explores the extent to which neologies as genre-typical elements of the English ST have been transferred to the Finnish TT in Frank Herbert's classic Anglophone SF novel *Dune* (1965) and its translation *Dyyni* (2021 [1982]), which are currently regaining popularity due to the recent film adaptation, *Dune* (2021). When an SF text is translated, the choice of translation strategies (methods of translation, that is, how the elements of the text are translated) determines whether the neologies are preserved. The strategies can either domesticate (bring the text closer to the target culture) or foreignize (bring the text closer to the source culture). A certain amount of domestication is always present when a text is translated since the text is written in a different language for an audience in a different culture. According to Campbell, domestication removes the foreign elements of a text and disrupts this estrangement function, altering, weakening, or removing key elements of the text's meaning (7). As neologies are considered to be key elements of an SF text's meaning, translation strategies could affect the transfer of the SF estrangement function to the target language and culture by distorting or weakening the estrangement produced by the neologies. Therefore, this study aims to answer the following research questions: how are fictive neologies translated and how does their translation affect the adherence of the SF text's estrangement function, given that such neologies constitute one of the defining characteristics of the SF genre.

I have previously studied the translation of SF neologies into Finnish TTs from the point of view of *generic fluency* in the translation of SF (Korpi "Neologies," "Professional Subtitling," "Fansubbing"). These studies approached the concept of fluency in translation to determine if cognitive estrangement, in Suvin's sense (79), has been retained in the TT. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the term "fluent" is associated with the ability to express oneself easily or speak a foreign language effortlessly (Simpson and Weiner 1098). As an essential element in producing SF estrangement, neologies make the translation of an SF text read fluently. In other words, fluency means that when the neologies are retained, the voice of the genre is expressed easily or effortlessly. Instead of focusing on traditional textual fluency, this generic fluency aims to determine if the ST estrangement function has been retained in the TT. A translation of an SF text is regarded as *generically fluent* when it preserves the voice of the genre, the fictive neologies. However, rather than focusing on generic fluency generally, this article focuses on assessing the translation of neologies purely from the point of view of the preservation of neologies as the voice of SF's estrangement function.

Notably, the expectations of readers of SF affect the importance of translation of neologies. When a text is translated, readers of the translation have expectations that are based on the genre characteristics of the translated text (Neubert and Shreve 126). Readers of SF anticipate words that refer to changed or alien worlds (Csicsery-Ronay 13). Hence, such readers expect to encounter neologies and to include them in the process of bringing the world of

the text to life in their minds. It is possible to attract and control the reader's attention with neologisms, to create coherence with the help of individual, core terms that are repeated (Erben, qtd. in Schöler, "Science Fiction" 62–63). Therefore, while it is not possible to argue that Finnish TT readers expect to find neologies in the TT identical to those in the ST, it is possible to evaluate whether the TT neologies are translated and produce SF estrangement in readers' minds similar to the ST neologies. Translators are responsible for carrying neologies as the voice of SF estrangement into another language, and thus they can control an important aspect of the TT's SF worldbuilding. The translator's interpretation of a text and its elements affects their chosen translation strategies, which again affect the SF estrangement produced by the translated neologies.

My previous research on the subject suggests that some neologies might be normalized in the translation as more conventional target-language expressions, altering the estrangement produced by the text in the translation process (Korpi "Neologies," "Professional Subtitling," "Fansubbing"). Therefore, this study begins from the question of whether neologies are preserved in the TT or if they become normalized in the translation. Normalization in translation has been discussed previously, for example, by Dorothy Kenny, who states that "normalisation occurs when translations contain fewer instances of abnormal or creative target language features than would be expected on the basis of their respective ST alone" (66). If neologies are normalized in translation, a potential explanation for this normalization may be found in what the translation scholar Gideon Toury calls "growing standardization" (267), which Anthony Pym aptly interprets to mean that "a source-text feature in some way specific to that text will tend to be replaced by a feature from the stock held in waiting in the target-language genre" (314). However, if neologies are preserved in the translation, SF neologies in the study's TT could be seen to adhere to Toury's law of "interference," according to which "in translation, phenomena pertaining to the make-up of the source text tend to be transferred into the target text" (275). As noted previously, neologies can be seen as genre-typical elements of the English ST, in other words, a phenomenon pertaining to the generic make-up of the ST. Toury suggests that considering the intercultural and interlingual relations of prestige and power, "tolerance of interference ... tends to increase when a translation is carried out from a 'major' or highly prestigious language/culture, especially if the target language/culture is 'minor,' or 'weak' in any other sense" (278). This would apply to the translation of English STs into Finnish.²

The material of the study, how it has been categorized, and the method of the analysis are described in the following section. The study's results are analysed with examples in Section 3. Section 4 then discusses the results and ventures to answer the research questions.

2. Material and Method

The material of this study consists of 2972 translations of neologies in the Finnish translation of *Dune*, *Dyyni*. According to Koponen's bibliography of SF

² There is no applicable research available on translation of neologies into Finnish in general.

in Finland, the translator of the Finnish edition, Anja Toivonen, translated at least two other Anglophone SF novels in 1980 (167) and 1982 (168), and the translator who inspected the translation in 2010, Ari Koskinen, translated four contemporary SF novels from the 1970s to the 1990s (Koponen 152, 179, 205). This suggests that both translators are at least somewhat specialized in translating SF novels, although it is impossible to determine whether they specialized in the genre conventions of SF in any way. I chose this classic SF novel due to its renewed popularity because of the recent film adaptation in 2021, *Dune*, in addition to its high number of neologies that consist of both neosemes and neologisms.³ Notably, the novel includes a glossary of neologies at the end of the novel titled “Terminology of the imperium” (Herbert 897–910) which provides an additional dimension for analysis.

The neologies in *Dune* have been previously studied, for example, by Csicsery-Ronay, who states that the novel’s “many imaginary neologisms ... continually challenge the reader’s ability to construct a comfortable, unified world” (39). Csicsery-Ronay divides the novel’s neologies into two groups of “loan-based neologisms; the Fremen’s, derived literally from Arabic, and the Galactic, derived from the power languages of Europe” (40). However, he further states that “judging by the commentary on the novel, few of the SF fans who have made *Dune* a success have reflected on the origins of its alien words” (41). Hence, while it is acknowledged that a part of the neologies in *Dune* are of Arabic, Latin, or Greek origin (40), it is noted in the analysis of this study that the etymological origins of the neologies did not affect the translation or, by consequence, their estranging or naturalizing function. The novel has also been studied earlier, for example, by Kara Kennedy, who notes that the names and cultures in an SF work have a significant role in making the story world understandable (100). As noted by Schüler, the translation method depends on the formation procedure of the neologism (“Übersetzungsproblem” 64), but the form and content of the neologism depend on the perception of the recipient (63). Therefore, the analysis focuses on translation strategies.

The neologisms and neosemes have been collected manually and analyzed to ascertain which translation strategy category they belong to.⁴ In order to answer the research questions and to examine the SF estrangement produced by both the ST and TT, the translated neologies are divided into two main categories, *retention* and *recreation*, depending on how the neologies have been transferred from the ST to the TT. The dichotomy between retentive and recreative global translation strategies was first introduced by James S. Holmes (48). This global translation strategy refers to “the translator’s general principles and preferred modes of action” (Jääskeläinen 116). In the current study, retentive translation strategies retain the ST’s naturalized estrangement function in the TT, whereas recreative translation strategies neutralize the estrangement function. In other words, retentive strategies retain the neology’s naturalized and estranging nature and preserve the neology. Hence, the ST genre estrangement function remains, from the point of view of neologies,

³ Further division of neologies into the subcategories presented by Stockwell (2000) was not seen to be necessary in order to evaluate the translations of neologies and answer the research question of the study.

⁴ The novel was processed in detail, identifying neologies one by one. It is recognised that the identification and analysis of neologies can be a subjective matter related to the person analysing the text. However, I have endeavoured to collect all the neologies in the novel.

accessible for readers in the translation also. For example, if the neoseme *sandworm* is translated as *hiekkamato* (“sandworm”), the estrangement function of the ST is retained. Recreation means the opposite, that is, the weakening or neutralization of the ST’s estrangement function. Hence, recreative strategies can either generalize (i.e., use a more common language expression) or completely omit a neology. The estrangement produced by a neology is lost when it is generalized as a common language expression. Complete omission of an ST neology from the TT is also an example of recreation since both its estranging and naturalizing aspects are lost. It is therefore suggested that omission of a ST neology is recreative as it contributes to creating the voice of SF anew. The smaller the overall percentage of retentively translated neologies, the more normalized the translation becomes, and the more the SF estrangement function is lost.

The dichotomy between retentive and recreative strategies was chosen in order to categorize the translation strategies based on Spiegel’s definition of SF estrangement (372). Suvin proposed that estrangement in SF must be explained scientifically (82), yet Spiegel has noted that this seems to be identical to what he calls *naturalization*, that is, normalizing the alien (373). Hence, Spiegel notes that estrangement in SF is achieved by *defamiliarization*, “making the familiar strange,” or by *diegetic estrangement*, “estrangement on the level of the story” (373). He notes that the novum must be naturalized before diegetic estrangement can happen (376). In the case of neologies, they first defamiliarize the language of an SF text. As readers interpret and understand the neologies (perhaps aided by a glossary), naturalization occurs. This, however, allows the neologies to take on a diegetically estranging function as novums that have been interpreted linguistically, yet causing estrangement at the story level of the text. Therefore, the translation strategies of neologies that, in this respect, render the TT neology both naturalizing and estranging (similar to their function in the ST) are considered retentive as they preserve the ST estrangement function. Conversely, translation strategies of neologies that neutralize either the naturalizing or the estranging aspect of a ST neology are seen to be recreative.

The retentive and recreative global strategies are divided into six local translation strategies: “specific activities in relation to the translator’s problem solving” (Jääskeläinen 116). Their selection follows the selection of strategies in my previous studies on the generic fluency of SF (Korpi “Neologies,” “Professional Subtitling,” “Fansubbing”); it is based on Jan Pedersen’s taxonomy of six categories of local strategies: retention, direct translation, specification, generalization, omission and substitution (73–74). Pedersen’s category “substitution” has been replaced with the category “compensation” to better suit the purposes of this study, and his category “retention” has been replaced with “direct transfer” to avoid confusion between the global and local strategies used in this study. The neologies in the material are thus divided into six local translation strategies: *Direct Transfer*, *Direct Translation*, *Specification*, *Generalization*, *Omission* and *Compensation*. These strategies may lead to either retention or recreation of neologies. Direct transfer refers to the direct transfer of a neology into the TT without changes, and direct translation refers to the literal translation of a neoseme, for example. Specification makes the neology more precise, rendering it more explicit or exact, while generalization, conversely, generalizes the neology, making it less

explicit. Omission means the complete omission of a neology from the TT, and compensation means adding a neology in close proximity to a generalized or omitted neology by means of specification. Examples of the use of each of these local strategies are given in the following discussion of the study's results.

3. Analysis

This section presents the overall results of the study before discussing examples of the translation strategies identified in the data. Notably, using a certain local strategy (direct transfer, direct translation, specification, generalization, omission, or compensation) does not guarantee a particular global strategy (retentive or recreative), that is, preservation (or loss) of the SF estrangement function in the TT. The results indicate that most of the local strategies can be both retentive and recreative, depending on context.

The study reveals that the majority of neologies in the TT retain the SF estrangement function of the ST. 97.78 percent of translated neologies are interpreted as retaining the estrangement function, and consequently, only 2.22 percent of neologies are interpreted as recreating the estrangement function. Table 1 presents the frequencies with which the different global and local translation strategies occur as percentages.

Table 1 Translation strategies

	Retentive	Recreative
Direct Transfer	1797 (60.46%)	3 (0.10%)
Direct Translation	1052 (35.40%)	1 (0.03%)
Generalization	14 (0.47%)	48 (1.62%)
Specification	39 (1.31%)	0 (0%)
Omission	0 (0%)	14 (0.47%)
Compensation	4 (0.13%)	0 (0%)
Total	2,906 (100.0%)	66 (100.0%)

The following analysis of examples demonstrates how the data is interpreted and categorized. The glossary of neologies at the end of the novel is analyzed to investigate how it affects the interpretation of the neology. Examples of each strategy are provided in the following paragraphs. The neologies are underlined and a back translation (BT) is provided in the examples.

- (1) ST: The Fremen have learned that you're Bene Gesserit," he said.
"There are legends here about the Bene Gesserit."
(*Dune* 49)
- TT: "Fremenit ovat kuulleet että sinä olet benegesseriitta", mies sanoi.
"Täällä on legendoja Bene Gesseriitistä."
(*Dyyni* 88)
- BT: Fremen, a benegesseress, Bene Gesserit

Example 1 demonstrates the primarily retentive strategies of direct transfer and direct translation, the most used strategies in the data. The example shows how the neologism *Bene Gesserit* is first translated with the strategy of direct transfer and subsequently with the strategy of direct translation. The reason for using a different strategy for the same neologism seems to be that, as the first ST neologism refers to a person and the second to a school of thought, the translator has decided to reflect this in a manner typical for the target language. These TT distinctive forms of the same neologism are also mentioned in the glossary at the end of the novel (Herbert, *Dune* 898; *Dyyni* 827). Hence, the glossary further explains the neologisms and their difference and thus naturalizes the initial defamiliarization produced by them. Both translations can be considered retentive. Example 1 also contains another neologism, *Fremen*, translated with the strategy of direct transfer. This neologism is also explained in the glossary (*Dune* 900; *Dyyni* 832). It, too, is considered to retain the ST diegetic estrangement function.

- | | | |
|-----|-----|--|
| (2) | ST: | “To begin, we’ll have an irrevocable directorship in the <u>CHOAM Company</u> .”
(<i>Dune</i> 25) |
| | TT: | ”Ensiksikin me saamme peruuttamattoman johtokunnan paikan <u>YKESK-yhtiössä</u> .”
(<i>Dyyni</i> 39) |
| | BT: | YKESK Company |
| | | |
| (3) | ST: | CHOAM was the key to wealth...
(<i>Dune</i> 25) |
| | TT: | CHOAM oli avain rikkauteen.
(<i>Dyyni</i> 39) |
| | BT: | CHOAM |

As mentioned, most of the translation strategies can result in both retentive and recreative outcomes. Example 2 presents the only instance in which direct translation has been interpreted as a recreative strategy. The acronym for the neoseme *CHOAM* is used throughout the novel and explained in the ST glossary to mean “Combine Honnete Ober Advancer Mercantiles – the universal development corporation controlled by the Emperor and Great Houses” (*Dune* 898). The full name “comes from multiple ancient Terran languages. It roughly translates as ‘Honorable Union for the Advancement of Greater Trade’” (“CHOAM”). The TT uses a translated acronym *YKESK* only once, and it is not explained in the TT glossary. However, the TT glossary does explain the acronym *CHOAM*, which is used in all other translations of the neologism in the TT. This is demonstrated in Example 3, which presents a clause in proximity to the clause in Example 2. The acronym is translated with the strategy of direct transfer, and the translation is interpreted as retentive with the accompanying explanation in the glossary (Herbert, *Dyyni* 829).

The reasons behind this inconsistency in the translation of this particular neology can only be speculated on. It could be surmised that the translator had a complete translation in mind for the TT acronym with a glossary explanation, which they decided against afterward, missing one instance in the text. Nevertheless, Example 2 demonstrates an instance of recreative translation that results in the loss of the neology’s naturalization. The TT neologism loses its potential to estrange at the story level because it is not

naturalized; therefore, the estrangement function is also neutralized. Example 3, on the other hand, can be regarded as a naturalized and estranging translation when interpreted with the context of the glossary explanation. Notably, the interaction of the text with the glossary has greatly influenced the naturalization of the estrangement function. The neologies in Examples 2 and 3 could both be regarded as losing the naturalization of the estrangement function without the explanation provided in the glossary, which makes the estrangement produced by the neology understandable to readers in Example 3.

Examples 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 illustrate the less frequently used strategies of generalization and specification.

- (4) ST: They met in midmorning outside the Arrakeen landing field's administration building.
(*Dune* 94)
- TT: He kohtasivat aamupäivän puolivälissä Arrakeenin lentokentän hallintorakennuksen ulkopuolella.
(*Dyyni* 179)
- BT: Arrakeen airfield
- (5) ST: She recognised Galach words, read:
(*Dune* 66)
- TT: Hän tunnisti galaksinkielen ja luki:
(*Dyyni* 121)
- BT: The Galaxy language
- (6) ST: Gurney laughed, and he swung into Galacian Girls, his multipick a blur over the strings as he sang:
(*Dune* 36)
- TT: Gurney nauroi ja aloitti ”Linnunradan tytöt”, ja moninäppäin kieppui kielillä hänen laulaessaan:
(*Dyyni* 60)
- BT: Milky Way Girls

Generalization is the strategy responsible for the majority of the recreative translations of neologies, which lead to loss of the ST estrangement function. Example 4 demonstrates this recreative generalization. The neoseme *landing field* has been generalized by replacing it with an existing word, *lentokenttä* (“airfield”), which alters the meaning and renders the TT expression recreative. The estrangement produced by the ST neoseme is lost. Example 5 then presents an instance in which a neologism is generalized into a neoseme compound. Both the ST neology and the TT neoseme are further explained in the ST and TT glossaries (*Dune* 900; *Dyyni* 832). Even though the neology changes into an existing language expression, the glossary’s explanation enforces the estrangement it produces by explaining that the language is “the official language of the Imperium” (*Dune* 900; *Dyyni* 832). Therefore, the resulting TT expression can be seen to be retentive, thereby preserving the ST estrangement function. Example 6 again demonstrates recreative generalization of the ST neologism *Galacian Girls*, which is not explained in the glossary. The neologism can be interpreted as meaning the girls of an imaginary planet or race. The TT generalization refers to an existing concept. Even though it is understandable and seems to be naturalized for readers, this reference to the Milky Way galaxy may render the TT expression confusing rather than

naturalized. Although the Milky Way galaxy is the implied setting of the novel (“Known Universe”), the TT expression is not estranging. Hence, readers may wonder why it is suddenly introduced to the story. The TT expression thus loses the ST estrangement function.

- (7) ST: The thing’s sensor arms hung limply over the table, reminding Paul of some weird insect newly dead.
(*Dune* 91)
- TT: Nuuskiijan aistinlonkerot riippuivat velttona pöydän yllä ja muistuttivat Paulista jotakin kammottavaa, juuri kuollutta hyönteistä.
(*Dyyni* 173)
- BT: The snooper’s, sensor tentacles
- (8) ST: Leto lifted his water flagon, held it aloft where the suspensor lights shot beams of reflection off it.
(*Dune* 116)
- TT: Leto nosti vesikannunsa, piteli sitä ylhäällä, missä kellulamput loivat siitä heijastuksia.
(*Dyyni* 221)
- BT: floating lamp

Examples 7 and 8 demonstrate specification, an entirely retentive strategy. The neoseme *poison snooper* (*Dune* 91) is mentioned in the clause directly preceding the clause in Example 7, translated with the strategy of direct translation as *myrkynnuuskija* (*Dyyni* 173). The example clause refers to this same self-explanatory noun, which is not explained in the ST or TT glossaries. The translator has translated *thing* as *snooper*, reinforcing the estrangement produced by the neology by changing a common noun into a neoseme. The second neoseme in the example, *sensor arms*, is translated as the more specific neoseme, *sensor tentacles*, which reinforces the naturalization of the estrangement and connects it to the comparison with a dead insect that follows. Even though the neoseme is not mentioned in the ST or TT glossary, the TT expression is naturalized. Example 8 is another example of specification, in which the neoseme *suspensor lights* has been turned into a neoseme compound that explicates the object’s functionality, naturalizing it. The ST neoseme *suspensor* is explained in the ST glossary as nullifying gravity (*Dune* 908), but a similar explanation cannot be found in the TT glossary. Whereas the ST neoseme partly relies on the glossary explanation to naturalize the estrangement function, the TT expression achieves this without a glossary explanation. The absence of glossary explanations for the neosemes in Examples 4 and 7 reflects the neosemy’s self-explanatory nature within the text.

Examples 9 and 10 demonstrate the strategies of compensation and omission.

- (9) ST: The irony was that such deadliness should come to flower here in Arrakis, the one source in the universe of melange, the prolonger of life, the giver of health.
“What are you thinking?” she asked.
“I am thinking that the spice brings six hundred and twenty thousand solaris the decagram on the open market right now. This is wealth to buy many things.”
“Does greed touch even you, Wellington?”
“Not greed.”

- “What then?”
 He shrugged. “Futility.” He glanced at her. “Can you remember your first taste of spice?”
 “It tasted like cinnamon.”
 “But never twice the same,” he said. “It is like life – it presents a different face each time you take it. Some hold that the spice produces a learned-flavour reaction.
 (*Dune* 60–61)
- TT: Oli ironista, että sellainen kuolettava viha puhkeaisi kukkaan täällä Arrakisissa, maailmankaikkeuden ainoassa melanssin lähteessä – melanssin, joka oli elämän pidentäjä, terveyden antaja.
 ”Mitä ajattelet?” Jessica kysyi.
 ”Ajattelen, että rohdesta maksetaan nyt juuri avoimilla markkinoilla kuusisataakaksikymmentä tuhatta solaria dekagrammalta. Sellaisella rikkaudella omistaa monia asioita.”
 ”Tarttuuko ahneus jo sinuunkin, Wellington?”
 ”Ei ahneus.”
 ”Mikä sitten?”
 Mies kohautti olkapäitään. ”Turhuus.” Hän vilkaisi naista.
 ”Muistatko kun maistoit rohtoa ensimmäisen kerran?”
 ”Se maistui kanelilta.”
 ”Mutta ei koskaan kahta kertaa samalta”, mies sanoi.
 ”Se on kuin elämä – se näyttää eri kasvot joka kerta kun maistat sitä. Jotkut väittävät että se aiheuttaa opitun maun reaktion.
 (*Dyyni* 110–111)
- BT: melange, melange, spice, spice, it

The least used strategy in the material was compensation. It denotes the instances where a generalized or omitted neology in the proximity of an instance of the same neology, or a neology representing the same novum, is added or translated with the strategy of specification. The two opposite instances are seen to compensate for or overrule each other, and the result is estranging. Example 9 demonstrates how the neology *melange* is repeated in the TT, which adds a neology in the text. After a few sentences, the neoseme for the common name of *melange*, *the spice*, is generalized as *it*. The relation between the neology *melange* and the neoseme *spice* is similarly explained in both the ST and TT glossaries (*Dune* 904; *Dyyni* 840). Thus, the demonstrated compensation is retentive and estranging. The example text also contains other neologies, but their translation will not be discussed here.

- (10) ST: Kynes shrugged. “Wait for the worm to leave.”
 (*Dune* 103)
- TT: -
 (*Dyyni* 196)
- BT: -
- (11) ST: “Too much spice beer,” Idaho said, attempting to straighten.
 (*Dune* 228)
- TT: -
 (*Dyyni* 246)
- BT: -

Examples 10 and 11 demonstrate the strategy of omission, which pertains to completely omitted clauses or sections. The reasons for this could be related to page count-related considerations or simple carelessness. Nevertheless, their

existence does affect the results of the study. Without them the percentage of estranging TT strategies would be even higher.

4. Conclusion

The aim of this study is not to suggest specific guidelines regarding how SF neologies should be translated, but rather to emphasize the role of translators as conveyors of SF's estrangement function through their translation decisions. It is necessary to examine translation strategies and to contemplate the reasons behind these decisions in order to understand the effect of translation on SF's estrangement function. Hence, the neologies of the TT have been analyzed in order to answer the research questions: how are fictive neologies translated and how does translation affect the preservation of neologies when they are considered to constitute a defining characteristic of the SF genre? To answer these research questions, this study has focused on neology translation strategies in the SF novel *Dune* and its Finnish translation, *Dyyni*, rather than on the influence of the neology formation process in either the source language or the target language on translation strategies, as has been the focus of previous studies.⁵ It seems that retaining all neologies would never be possible due to, for example, differences in interpretations of the ST and TT neologies, both by the translators themselves and the scholars interpreting the translations. Consequently, and based on the study results, it seems inevitable that if a translation of SF is studied with regard to the estrangement function, some form of neology normalization is always likely to be found.

Based on my previous studies on the subject (Korpi "Neologies," "Professional Subtitling," "Fansubbing"), this study questioned whether neologies would be retained in the TT. The results indicate that the majority of the neologies are retained in the translation. As presented in the previous section, only a small percentage (2.22%) of neologies are translated recreatively, neutralizing the estrangement function. Therefore, instead of becoming normalized as more conventional target-language expressions – thus altering the estrangement produced by the text – the results indicate that in the case of *Dune*, the translations of neologies are predominantly retentive (i.e., estranging). Instead of becoming a victim of Toury's "law of growing standardization" (267), the SF neologies in the study's TT could indeed be seen as adhering to Toury's "law of interference" (275). This could explain the estrangement the TT produces since it may be due to the dominance of Anglophone SF in the Finnish target culture. Furthermore, Suvin sees SF as educational literature, which bridges cultural gaps efficiently and "demands from the author and reader, teacher and critic ... a social imagination whose quality of wisdom (*sapientia*) testifies to the maturity of his critical and creative thought" (50). The translator has a role in this process, in which the nature of the SF genre calls for social imagination, for critical and creative thought.

As noted in the previous section, the predominantly recreative strategy of generalization is responsible for the majority of the small percentage of

⁵ Schüler, for example, studied the translation of neologisms from English to German in *Neologismen in der Science Fiction*, focusing on the word-formation process rather than translation strategies.

recreative translations of neologies that lead to neutralization of the estrangement function. While this may be a sign of standardization, it is only a minor indicator of displaced estrangement function and normalization of neologies as genre-specific features. Furthermore, keeping in mind the demonstrated occurrences of the strategy of omission, it is difficult to assess whether their role should be considered in the evaluation of the retention of the estrangement function in the TT or not. Without considering the omitted sentences, the percentage of estranging translation strategies in the TT would have been even higher. For this reason, it could be examined whether these omissions are a feature of the particular edition (rather than a genuine translation strategy) by comparison with previous editions of the TT.

This study indicates that defining translation strategies in detail and evaluating the neologies in their context are imperative in order to investigate whether ST neologies become normalized in the process of translation. The answer is not always unambiguous, and without specific context, the translation strategies cannot be generally defined as either retentive or recreative. Notably, the glossary of neologies at the end of the novel, can be seen as greatly affecting the results. Without the glossary supporting understanding of the text's neologies, the naturalization of the TT neologies could be weaker. Analyzing several SF novels with and without glossaries could reveal the glossary's influence on naturalization and the estrangement function. Furthermore, as neosemes have been observed to be more self-explanatory than neologisms without a glossary explanation, further study of the subject could differentiate between the naturalization of neosemes and neologisms to reveal their particular influences on the estrangement function.

In conclusion, the estrangement produced by neologies in the translation of SF could be further studied, as suggested above, and developed to answer the questions raised by this study: does the presence of a glossary influence the estrangement function and how does the form of the neology (neoseme or neologism) influence the estrangement function in translation? Furthermore, and more ambitiously, the method of combining genre studies with translation studies could be modified and applied to the study of other speculative genres as well.

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Korpi, Suvi. "Generic Fluency in Professional Subtitling. Neology as the Voice of Science Fiction in Audiovisual Translation." *Journal of Audiovisual Translation*, 4:3, 89–107, 2021.

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