

Collective feedback on the treveckorskroll, English and German

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Part 1

The text contained challenges on different levels and I will comment on a few of them below and also include some of your proposals. Later on in the programme, we will return to this text again, focusing on progression.

- I. Lexical issues
- II. Metaphors
- III. Structural issues

I. Lexical issues

Difficulties, that you partly also commented on, involve mainly two things: **terms** (house architecture) and **polysemous** nouns. One example of the former is *soffit*. Some of you decided on *soffit*. However, *soffit* is mostly not used in this context. The more appropriate term is *takstol*. *Soffit* in Swedish seems to be associated with some kind of theatre decoration, at least according to SAOB (Svenska Akademiens ordbok). The noun *practice* in the first sentence yielded a wide range of translations, for example: *arkitektkontor*, *arkitektfirma*, *testprojekt*, *praxis*, *praktik*, *samarbete* etc. In this particular context, world-knowledge should tell us that it has to do with a business, at least after having searched for it on Wikipedia: "**Chamberlin, Powell and Bon** was a British firm of architects [...]." *Arkitektbyrå* or something similar is a suitable choice.

II. Metaphors and idioms

The source text contains a couple of metaphors and is generally quite descriptive and vivid with adjectives that you would perhaps mainly associate with humans / animates. What you can see is that there is quite the variation even when the metaphor can be considered fairly standard or lexicalized in the particular context. The metaphoric dynamicity is sometimes lost in the translation when a more plain, non-figurative expression is used as in "leder upp till" below.

Source text	Student translation
[...] Great Arthur House <i>rises to</i> an eccentric, pagoda-like roof [...]	Great Arthur House i gul panel, <i>reser sig upp mot</i> hissmaskineriets excentriska pagodliknande tak
	Great Arthur House med sina gula paneler <i>reser sig som</i> ett excentrisk [sic!] pagoda-tak
	Great Arthur House <i>sträcker sig uppåt</i> mot ett excentriskt pagodalikt tak
	Den gula, 16 våningar höga byggnaden Great Arthur House <i>kröns av</i> hissmaskineriets excentriska, pagodliknande tak
	Great Arthur House, med gula paneler, <i>leder upp till</i> ett excentriskt pagod-liknande tak

III. Structural issues

The first sentence in the text is clearly a sentence fragment. Many of you kept the fragmentary style in the translation/target text. The following translation, however, makes use of **clause building** (a well-known concept and method in translation studies), a good choice as it definitely makes the sentence more readable, unless you feel that it is crucial for the style of the text to keep it as a fragment.

Golden Lane-komplexet designades av Chamberlain Powell Bon, en firma som bildades 1952 efter att den 32-årige Geoffrey Powell vann designuppdraget i en tävling, och det uppfördes i etapper mellan 1957 och 1962 vid den norra kanten av City of London. (Student translation)

Usually supplementary (adverbial) *ing-* (or *ed-*) clauses give rise to much headache when translating into Swedish. It is often not clear what they express in relation to the subordinate clause. Is a temporal connection intended, or rather a resultative or causative meaning? When translating into Swedish a paraphrase is almost always required. A few examples are given below:

Source text	Student translation
<i>Being underground</i> , the new spaces lent themselves to private cinemas [...].	<i>Eftersom de var under jord</i> erbjöd de nya ytorna privata biografier [...]
	De nya utrymmen <i>som skapades nedanför markytan</i> blev privata biografier [...].
	De nya lokalerna <i>under jord</i> användes till privata biografier [...].

As you can see the translations differ widely. In the first translation a causal relation is expressed through the subordinator *eftersom*. This interpretation is well-motivated in the particular context. The other two, however, do not explicitate such a meaning. The first one turns the adverbial into a postmodifier (relative clause), which results in a slight loss of meaning. The same holds true for the third alternative that quite elegantly renders the adverbial as a PP-postmodifier.

In the following case, the *ing-* clause is not in sentence-initial but in sentence-final position. Again, there are several different translations to be found in your assignments.

Source text	Student translation
The detail is light and glassy, <i>creating transparencies between inside and out and a rapport between the interiors of the home, within which privacy is nonetheless maintained.</i>	Detaljen är ljus och glansig <i>och skapar transparens mellan in- och utomhus och en resonans mellan interiörerna av husen som inte desto mindre förblir privata.</i>
	Fastighetens detaljer är lätta och glasaktiga, <i>vilket suddar ut gränsen mellan in och utsida och skapar en relation mellan interiörerna av hemmen utan att för den del inkräkta på den privata sfären.</i>
	Denna ljusa och glasliknande detalj <i>skapar transparens mellan byggnadens in- och utsida, samtidigt som de boendes privata sfär hålls just privat.</i>

The translations range from **coordinations** (creating a new main clause that is attached to the original main clause by a coordinator) to **sentential relative clauses**, introduced by the relative pronoun *vilket*. Both are quite common as translations of supplementive *ing*-clauses, as shown by Ström Herold & Levin (2018), coordination, however, being the most frequent correspondent in their material, and subordination being the runner-up.

Noun sequences pose a further challenge, often yielding other paraphrases than a Swedish solid compound. One example is *the sixteen-storey (yellow-panelled) Great Arthur House* where the noun premodifier (*sixteen-storey*) is also followed by a participial premodifier, making it even more of a challenge. Many have chosen a translation similar to these: *det gula och sexton våningar höga huset "Great Arthur House" / Det sexton våningar höga Great Arthur House är klätt i gul panel [...]. Sexton våningar höga* can be described as an extended adjectival premodifier (extended in the sense that *hög* is preceded by an NP specification). Of course, a solid compound would not be an option in this case: *Sextonvånings-Great Arthur House"

A further challenge involves "**hyphenated premodifiers**" (the term used in Levin & Ström Herold 2017) such as *bombed-out buildings* and *yellow-panelled [...]* House. Because of their syntactic complexity they often require a paraphrase and some restructuring, sometimes into a postmodifier: *Great Arthur House med gula paneler*. In another student translation a translation strategy that we can call 'Reduction' is used: *det gula och sexton våningar höga huset*. The hyphenated premodifier is rendered as a simple adjective. The participial right-hand element is, thus, deleted, possibly with some information loss.

Part 2

Below you'll find a selection of the complex noun phrases that can be found in the texts (English and German) that you were given. Some of them include the translation and your comments on the changes made.

<p>Then I started to notice that <u>green energy programs*</u> were increasingly being challenged under <u>international trade agreements</u>, particularly the <u>World Trade Organization's rules</u>.</p>	<p>Sedan började jag lägga märke till att program för grön energi ifrågasattes alltmer i internationella handelsavtal, framför allt i Världshandelsorganisationens regler.</p>
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* In the English ST the head is premodified (with the adjective *green* and the noun *energy*), whereas the head in the Swedish TT has been moved to the front in the noun phrase and postmodified by a prepositional phrase (*för grön energi*).

Teacher comment: Indeed. No need to say that the head has been moved but rather that the head is now postmodified by a PP. This is a typical change in Swedish translation as Swedish generally is more prone to postmodification as you have already seen in the comments above on the text translation.

<p>In 2010, for instance, the United States challenged <u>one of China's wind power subsidy programs*</u> on the <u>grounds</u> that it contained supports for local industry considered protectionist.</p>	<p>År 2010 ifrågasatte till exempel USA ett av Kinas stödprogram för vindkraft med motiveringen att det innebar ett stöd till den lokala industrin som ansågs protektionistiskt.</p>
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*Teacher comment: The head is the pronoun *one* and it is postmodified by a PP. The translation has only partly an identical structure (*ett av...*). The main difference is that the noun sequence (*wind power subsidy programs*) is restructured into a (compound) head + prepositional postmodifier.

China, in turn, filed a complaint in 2012 targeting <u>various renewable energy programs</u> in the <u>European Union*</u> , singling out Italy and Greece (it has also threatened to bring a <u>dispute</u> against renewables <u>subsidies</u> in five U.S. states).	Kina klagade i sin tur på olika program för förnyelsebar energi i EU och utpekade speciellt Italien och Grekland. (Landet har också hotat med att inleda tvister angående stöd till förnyelsebar energi i fem av USA:s delstater.)
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*Teacher comment: The NP contains stacked premodifiers (AdjPs) and a postmodifier (PP). In the translation some restructuring has occurred in that one premodifier was turned into as prepositional postmodifier. As previously mentioned, this is a common type of restructuring when translating into Swedish.

Washington, meanwhile, has launched a <u>World Trade Organization attack</u> on India's ambitious <u>Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission</u> , a <u>large, multiphase solar support program*</u> – once again, for containing provisions, designed to encourage local industry, considered to be protectionist.	Washington har samtidigt inlett ett angrepp från Världshandelsorganisationen mot Indiens ambitiösa program Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, ett stort och mångfacetterat program för solenergi. Det anses vara protektionistiskt.
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*Teacher comment: The head in this NP is preceded by an NP premodifier and a PP postmodifier. The NP that appears after the comma is an apposition. This means that there is a complex NP embedded in the most outmost NP. An alternative analysis of this apposition would be to treat it as a separate clause element and not include it in the complex NP.

<u>Das dritte Viertel des Lebens*</u> offeriert <u>Jahre und Jahrzehnte</u> , die lange voller Aktivität sein können,* intensiviert von <u>der Freude am Leben</u> ,* diese wiederum von <u>der Erkenntnis, dass sich die Möglichkeiten des Lebens reduzieren.*</u>	Den tredje fjärdedelen av livet erbjuder år och årtionden som kan fyllas av aktiviteter som intensifieras av glädjen över livet, och denna glädje intensifieras i sin tur av insikten att livets möjligheter reduceras.
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*In the above German segment there are four overarching complex NPs. The first one contains an adjectival premodifier and a genitive-NP postmodifier. In the translation the latter was turned into a PP (*av livet*). The second one contains a coordinated head and a clausal postmodifier. The same structure is used in the translation. The third NP contains a prepositional postmodifier and so does the translation. In the fourth NP there is also a clausal postmodifier. Again, an identical structure is used in the translation.

<u>Das große Aufbäumen*</u> setzt ein: Das kann noch nicht alles gewesen sein!	En stark känsla av revolt infinner sig: Det här kan väl ändå inte varit allt!
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*In the above segment the head is premodified adjectivally. The translation shows a more expanded NP. Here a postmodifying PP was included since a paraphrase is needed to render the German word fully in the translation.

Typical mistakes found in your analyses

Sometimes sequences of words are underlined that do not form an NP or a complete phrase even, and sometimes the determiner is forgotten/not underlined. Here a sample with comments:

Then I started to notice that green energy programs were increasingly being challenged under international trade agreements, particularly the World Trade Organization's rules.

Teacher comment: The underlined word sequence is a clause, a subordinate one. Possibly “that” was mistaken for a determiner.

China, in turn, filed [a complaint in 2012 targeting various renewable energy programs in the European Union, singling out Italy and Greece] (it has also threatened to bring a dispute against renewables subsidies in five U.S. states).

Teacher comment: This is a tricky one. What has to be excluded, however, is the supplementive / adverbial *ing*-clause (, *singling out...*). Possibly the NP isn't complex at all. *In 2012* is likely an adverbial because you could actually move it without changing the meaning: *In 2012, China, in turn, filed a complaint targeting...* The function of the following *ing*-clause is somewhat unclear. Is it a postmodifier or an adverbial *ing*-clause? If indeed it is an adverbial, a paraphrase such as the following would be possible: *In 2012, China, in turn, filed a complaint and, thus, (they) targeted...*

brand-new factories that should be producing solar panels are now contemplating closure.

Teacher comment: Only parts of the NP are underlined. The following clausal postmodifier (that should be producing solar panels) has to be included.

References

Levin, Magnus & Jenny Ström Herold. 2017. Premodification in translation: English hyphenated premodifiers in fiction and their translations into German and Swedish. To appear in Egan, Thomas & Hildegunn Dirdal (eds.), *Cross-linguistic Correspondences. From lexis to genre*. Amsterdam: Benjamins. 149–175.

Ström Herold, Jenny & Magnus Levin. 2018. English supplementive *ing*-clauses and their German and Swedish correspondences. *Bergen Language and Linguistics Studies*. 9. 115–138.