

10.17846/topling-2024-0003

Stylistic redundancy in research papers: Padding as interlingual pleonasm in translation

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Abstract

We conducted research to identify structures that might be problematic in translation due to their being considered redundant if they were translated. These structures were studied in 30 randomly collected papers by Slovak scholars in the humanities field. The research aims to define the notion of stylistic redundancy in academic English, propose its notional paradigm and in doing so argue for its inclusion in translation issues. Based on the findings, we suggest that padding be conceptualized as interlingual pleonasm resulting from lexical, grammatical (syntactic), or stylistic (discourse) asymmetry in a language pair, manifested as dysfunctional redundancy in the target language and unveiled through semantic translation. The notional paradigm of padding includes the following types: hypercharacterization (due to reiteration of meaning), hypercharacterization (due to semantic emptiness), tautology, hypercorrection, pleonastic stringy phrases, pleonastic phrasemes, pleonastic clauses, and pleonastic sentences (sentence complex). The possible effects that these structures may exert are as follows: redundant modification in naming, semantically empty modification, usage of quasi-binomials, terminological over-saturation, over-aggregation of nominal phrases, inadequate implementation of author's voice, syntactic over-complexity, and redundant exposition of information meant to be implicit and default.

Key words

academic discourse, stylistic redundancy, pleonasm, padding in translation, hypercharacterization, hypercorrection, tautology, pleonastic structures

1. Introduction

If an ELF user aspires to have a scholarly paper published in English, the paper may be criticized for poor language. The problem may as well not actually lie in poor language itself, rather in the author's and/or translator's unawareness of the lingua-culture-specific principles governing the verbalization of ideas in the text. We believe that the principle central to Anglo-American, i.e. Saxonian, writing style (cf. Galtung 1981) is reader-friendliness. We see reader-friendliness as effective, concise writing allowing for the smooth flow of the text, void of bulkiness or verbosity. From the reader's perspective, it means that the essence of the text can be captured effortlessly; from the author's perspective, it implies adhering to specific principles of expression ensuring the smooth flow of ideas. As it were, reader-friendliness pertains to all three levels of textual organization – macro-structure, mezzo-structure, and microstructure. On the macro-structure level, it implies linearity, explicit verbalization of the thesis, research problem, and methodology. On the mezzo-structure level, it stands for logical interlinkage of paragraphs, their straightforward internal structuring, and evenly distributed information. On the microstructure level, it is expressed through conciseness, economy of expression, and purposefulness of the language.

When preparing a paper for publication, during writing or translating, strict adherence to the original text, and the transfer of the native-language stylistics reflect linguistic habits that may be in clash with those of the target language. To-date studies (Galtung 1981, Čmejrková 1996, Chamonikolasová 2005,

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Vassileva 2009, Sdobnikov 2019, Bilá, Kačmárová, and Vaňková 2020) suggest that a Saxonian writing style views reader-friendliness differently from other writing styles (i.e. Germanic, Gaelic, Nipponic). The Saxonian writing style imposes more rigorous requirements on text structuring and on its cohesion and coherence; the other styles are more benevolent in this respect. A translator should aim for stylistic appropriateness, which can be achieved by adapting the source structure as different linguistic traditions may take different paths to achieve the same result. While some source-language structures need not necessarily disturb a reader, their verbatim rendering into the target language may sound awkward or verbose and should be accommodated to the linguistic conventions of the target language. Since interlingual translation has to account for lingua-cultural features, what is not an issue within one language, may be an issue in a different language. Our present concern is source-language linguistic structures that necessitate verbal reduction in translation since for some reasons the target language considers certain elements of these structures unnecessary.

These structures were studied in 30 randomly collected papers by Slovak scholars in the humanities field. The research aims to define the notion of stylistic redundancy in academic English, propose it is a notional paradigm, and in doing so argue for its inclusion in translation issues. We are aware that redundancy occurs also intralingually, and if so, it involves several types, including pleonasm. This is to say, pleonasm is an intralingual phenomenon occurring when a word or a string of words is deemed redundant. It may include examples like “zľava je -30%” (the discount is -30% /minus 30%/, in the Slovak practice), “a free gift” (in the English practice). Such examples reflect symmetry regarding the occurrence of intralingual pleonasm in languages. However, our research is not concerned with intralingual pleonasm in single languages. We focus on an asymmetrical situation, i.e. when a source language has structures viewed by native speakers (e.g. Slovak) as non-pleonastic, while its translation into the target language (e.g. English) may be considered pleonastic by native speakers of English. In other words, we look into cases that by virtue of language interference may bring about stylistic or idiomatic inappropriateness. Our research suggests that “interlingual pleonasm” be included among translation issues.

2. Conceptual framework

Each language has its mechanics (conventionalized structures, sentence patterns, or linguistic habits) determining which structures are deemed appropriate and which appear to be redundant and unnecessary. The linguistic phenomenon of redundancy is generally treated as an undesirable feature of a text. However, in various styles, genres, and modes of discourse, it may fulfil various literary and communicative functions: redundancy may serve the function of additional explanation in demanding communicative conditions, or a poetic function (Lehmann, 2006). Contrariwise, in Saxonian academic writing, governed by reader-friendliness, language efficiency and conciseness, redundancy may violate the Gricean maxim of quantity. Pragmatic principles operate differently in different languages, thus Gricean maxims may function along different scales in different languages. Even so, the differences become apparent when languages are confronted in translation. An expression or structure considered appropriate in the source language may be assessed as redundant and thus clash with the mechanics of the target language. Semantic (or literal) translation may produce stretches of awkward expressions/phrases/clauses. Functional translation, hence, has to adapt the structure to the linguistic habits of the target language.

We consider it worthwhile to look into the nature of redundancy. This phenomenon has been addressed from different perspectives: comprehension and memory (Saryazdi, Nuque, Chambers, 2022); learning (Tal, Arnon, 2022); general linguistics (Leufkens, 2020); discourse (Alontseva, Ermoshin, 2019; Bazzanella, 2011; Zanzotto, Massimo, 2011). However, to our knowledge, no research in redundancy as a translation issue is available. For the purpose of defining the starting point, the most systematic approach can be seen in Lehmann’s (2006) treatment; he identifies four types of redundant structures: pleonasms, tautology, hypercharacterization, and hypercorrection.

Lehmann (2006, p. 2 – 12) defines pleonasm as the presence of extraneous words or sequences of words. He refers to them as a focal component and a dedicated unit; the latter expresses the meaning of the former. In other words, as already stated by Lehman in 2005 (p. 122) “An expression $E_1 + E_2$...En, is pleonastic if it contains a meaning component F that is included in the meaning of more than one E_i ”. Based on the definition, the examples may include cases like “to die a horrifying death”, “final goal”, “proceed forward”, “handsomely attractive”. In addition to phrases, sentences can also be considered

pleonastic if they do not meet the criterion of analytical sentences in terms of logic, i.e. they are unnecessarily verbose rather than logically concise (e.g. “The interpretation, reconstructing the main methodological and argumentative line of the work, will be guided by the procedure of deriving the supporting moments of the argumentative perspective”). Lehmann (*ibid*) defines tautology as a construction each member of which is synonymous with the construction as a whole, e.g. freedom and liberty. Hypercharacterization is understood as a pleonasm on the morphosyntax and word-formation levels, e.g. “the Thames River”. Hypercorrection, in his (*ibid*) view, refers to over-application of a perceived rule to sound correct in a context in which it is inappropriate, e.g. “between you and I” instead of “between you and me”.

We see indecisiveness in Lehmann’s approach in that on one side, he is aware of the four types of redundancy, on the other side he identifies pleonasm with an overarching quality, thus being a supercategory or hyperonym roofing all the other redundancy-related terms (see Fig 1 below, Lehmann, 2006, p. 5). In other words, he equals redundancy with pleonasm, while pleonasm, in his view, covers lexical, grammatical, and discourse (stylistic) levels. The lexical level is represented by synonymous relations expressed through tautology. The grammatical level is expressed by hypercharacterization. The discourse or stylistic level is expressed by stylistic pleonasm. In the graph, hypercorrection is missing, however, we see it as another form of stylistic pleonasm. It follows that stylistic pleonasm covers two notions – hypercharacterization and hypercorrection: the former operating on the phrase level, the latter on the clause level.

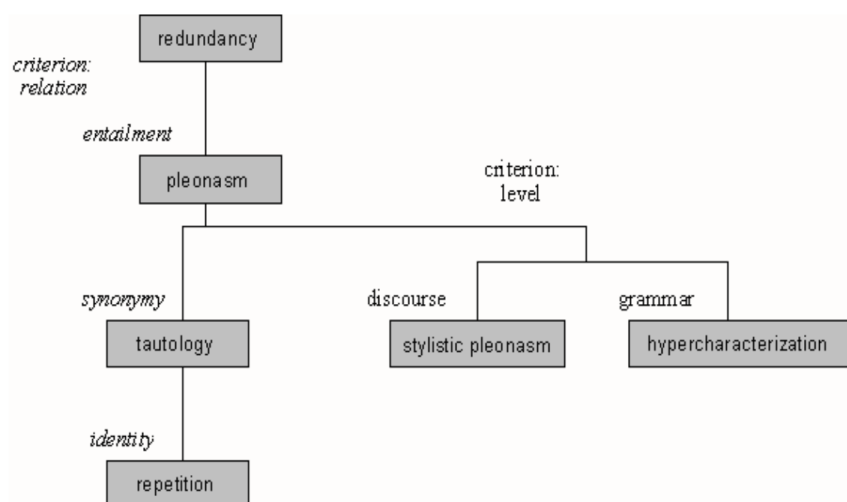


Figure 1 Lehmann’s conceptual field of pleonasm (2006, p. 5)

The concepts of tautology, stylistic pleonasm, hypercharacterization, and hypercorrection describe intralingual redundancy; a similar phenomenon can also be observed in language contact, namely in non-literary translation. The juxtaposition of source and target languages puts to the test how expressions/phrases/clauses, conventionalized and established in the source lingua-culture, may violate the principles of conciseness and economy of expression when rendered semantically. We dare venture that Lehmann’s concept of pleonasm (in the overarching sense) may also emerge in interlingual translation. In order to differentiate between intralingual and interlingual redundancy we propose the term “padding” for interlingual redundancy. We conducted research to identify the notional paradigm of “interlingual pleonasm”, i.e. padding. The applied framework is generative in the sense that it derives from conventionalized usage by native speakers. In professional users of a foreign language, this can be supported by the concept of prior knowledge and salience in expression (Kecskes – Papp 2000, Kecskes 2014).

3. Research methodology

We conducted the research undertaking these steps:

1. Compiling a research corpus of Slovak written texts by Slovak natives.
2. Identifying and excerpting language structures considered padding if translated into English.
3. Through semantic translation of the excerpted Slovak segments into English, assessing stylistic appropriateness of the anticipated padding structures.
4. Through functional translation, identifying the effect of semantic translation in academic English.
5. Suggesting and justifying types of padding according to the effect the semantic translation would generate.
6. Arriving at a generalized list of padding types, i.e. the notional paradigm of padding.

In other terms, the research procedure can be paralleled with methods as follows:

<i>Research procedure</i>	<i>Method</i>
1 Compiling the research corpus of Slovak written texts by Slovak natives.	Random compilation of texts that would make a research corpus
2 Translating Slovak texts into English	Functional translation
3 Excerpting translated language structures that underwent change to avoid redundancy in the target language and arriving at a list of structures concerned	Meta-analysis of possible stylistic/structural redundancy accounting for the conventions in academic writing
4 Forming a notional paradigm of cases exhibiting the features of interlingual pleonasm in translation	Tagging of types of structural changes Sampling the identified cases

The research corpus consisted of 30 papers (318, 456 words) falling in the research fields of linguistics, literature, media studies, philosophy, aesthetics, history, political science, psychology, and social work, in line with the present authors' research expertise and translation practice. The analysis considered a paper in its entirety – all sections (abstract, the main text, footnotes and endnotes) were subjected to excerpting.

We looked for a translation solution while adhering to Pym's typology and terminology (Pym 2016). His typology (ibid, p. 220) includes three basic notions (copying, expression change, and material change): copying includes copying words and copying structures; expression change includes perspective change, density change, resegmentation, compensation, and cultural correspondence; material change includes text tailoring. We opted for Pym's typology as his approach simplifies the preceding attempts in terminology through focusing on the end-product that is different either in form or in content, thus tagging them as solutions while encompassing both smaller and larger units. The overall typology is given in the figure below (Figure 2).

Copying	Copying Words	Copying Sounds Copying Morphology Copying Script ...
	Copying Structure	Copying Prosodic Features Copying Fixed Phrases Copying Text Structure ...
Expression Change	Perspective Change	Changing Sentence Focus Changing Semantic Focus Changing Voice ...
	Density Change	Generalization/Specification Explicitation/Implication Multiple Translation Resegmentation ...
	Compensation	New Level of Expression New Place in Text (notes, paratexts) ...
	Cultural Correspondence	Corresponding Idioms Corresponding Culture-Specific Items ...
Content Change	Text Tailoring	Correction/Censorship/Updating Omission of Content Addition of Content ...

Figure 2 Pym's typology of translation solutions (2016, p. 220)

The research aims to draw attention to stylistic redundancy as an issue in interlingual translation. The following research questions should add to the definition and typology of assumed presence of stylistic redundancy in academic style when translating from Slovak into English:

1. What are the manifestations of stylistic redundancy in the discourse concerned and what stylistic effect do they exert?
2. What types does the tentative notional paradigm include?
3. What specific translation solutions can be applied in the translation of academic discourse in the Slovak – English language pair?

In the below presentation of data, the excerpted structures are not given as citations; we turned them into more general-looking language patterns in order to keep the authors anonymous (as our aim is not to comment on the authorial voice or authors' way of saying things) and to make their prospective transition to some kind of padding prototypes smoother. The below tables explicate the identified cases through providing the mere structure, its semantic translation, translation solution, and a generalized example from the research corpus.

4. Research findings and discussion

Regarding the syntactic analysis, we identified padding on three levels: the phrase level, part of a clause level, and clause level. During analysis, we identified the following types of what would be padding on the phrase level in English: redundant modification in naming, semantically empty (thus redundant) phrase, quasi-binomials, terminological over-saturation, over-aggregation of nominal phrases, and phrases of non-academic tone. Padding on the part of a clause level is related to over-complexity in English. Padding on the clause level is attributed to redundant exposition of information meant to be implicit and default.

4.1 Case 1

Effect: Redundant modification in naming

Type of padding: hypercharacterization (due to reiteration of meaning)

The following structures can be considered redundant modification in noun phrases that name a person, a temporal unit, and a geographical unit. The overall occurrence of the three structures in 30

papers was as follows: author – 26 occurrences, year/years – 235 occurrences, town/city – occurrences. Table 1 explicates the three situations.

Table 1 Explication of redundant modification in naming

Persons		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	<i>Autorky XY a YZ (2015) tvrdia ...</i>	<i>Autori A, B, C a D (YEAR) upozorňujú, že pri meraní vedomostí ... je dôležité zohľadniť ...</i>
Semantic translation:	<i>Authors XY a YZ (2015) claim ...</i>	<i>Authors A, B, C and D (YEAR) therefore point out that when measuring knowledge ... it is important to consider</i>
Target text	<i>Ø XY a YZ (2015) claim ...</i>	<i>Ø A, B, C and D (YEAR) emphasize the importance of considering its ... when measuring the knowledge of ...</i>
Time period		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	<i>v rokoch XXXX – YYYY</i>	<i>Posledná skupina ... prišla do Československa v rokoch 1922 – 1923.</i>
Semantic translation:	<i>in years XXXX – YYYY</i>	<i>The last group of ... came to Czechoslovakia in years 1922-1923.</i>
Target text	<i>in XXXX – YYYY</i>	<i>The last group of ... came to Czechoslovakia in Ø 1922 – 1923.</i>
Geographical name		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	<i>v meste Bratislava</i>	<i>Mesto XX patrí medzi najmenej rozvinuté oblasti na Slovensku</i>
Semantic translation:	<i>in the city of Bratislava</i>	<i>Town XX belongs to the least developed areas in Slovakia.</i>
Target text	<i>In Bratislava</i>	<i>Ø XX is one of the least developed towns in Slovakia.</i>

Syntactically, these cases of anticipated padding structures in English occur on the phrase level. They form a noun phrase in which the head is a person, time period, or a geographical name. The modifying element is the noun introducing the lexical meaning of the head, thus hypercharacterizing the head. In the paper, we use the term phrase in its syntactic sense as a unit below the clause/sentence.

From the lexico-stylistic perspective, there is no reason for keeping the modifying nouns (author/year/town). A possible reason for keeping both elements would be the status of phrasemes (i.e. figurative expressions), which is not the case. We use the term phraseme as a notion operating in phraseology, i.e. a word or a cluster of words with a holistic meaning not necessarily meeting the criterion of compositionality, hence projecting a figurative meaning. If retained as a whole, this is considered inappropriate structuring in English as the lexemes in question are semantically empty. The meaning of the common noun is implied in the proper name. If these modifying nouns are retained, the effect in academic English is inappropriate structuring due to providing doubled information. In the case of the notion “author”, the text is part of a scholarly paper, which makes it clear that we are talking about authors; it is by default that the name refers to an author; in other words, it is unmarked. Furthermore, by mentioning the name (followed by the bibliographic information of the source) we are dealing with metonymy, not with a direct reference to a particular person. If their marked usage is the case, e. g. a psychologist in a linguistics paper, the usage of such a tag is justifiable. Other alternatives, the tag “author” offered by the research corpus, included the tags “professor” and “painter”.

A tentative reason for its usage in Slovak may be the synthetic nature of the language, i.e. if these introductory nouns (author, year, town) were missing, the following element would need to undergo declension. English, being an analytical language, does not pose the requirement of declension, hence avoids the introductory noun. Thus, the tags may be present in Slovak to avoid the complicated declension of the head noun. This is not the case in English; which is why, these lexemes are considered redundant. They are used only if it is necessary to differentiate between e.g. referents bearing the same name (the town of AAA vs the AAA region).

4.2 Case 2

Effect: semantically empty modifier

Type of padding: hypercharacterization (due to semantic emptiness)

The following instances represent noun phrases, so-called of-phrases, consisting of the head noun preceded by a modifier and followed by a qualifier. The following table (Table 2) evidences five cases that were identified in the studied corpus (in the sense of, in the context of, in the form of, in the field of, with the aim to). They fulfil syntactic functions of adverbial of manner, adverbial of purpose, or adverbial of place. Their functional English alternatives are related to these functions. Their overall occurrence was 242.

Table 2 Explication of semantically empty phrases

in the sense of		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	v zmysle, v intenciách	spolupráca <i>v zmysle</i> prejavenia pravidelného záujmu a informovania sa o ...
Semantic translation:	in the sense of	co-operation <i>in the sense of</i> manifesting regular interest in
Target text	Single-word preposition of manner	cooperation manifested <i>as</i> continuous attention to ...
in the context of		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	v kontexte ... [+ Genitive sg/pl]	Ex. 1: <i>V kontexte</i> podpory rozvoja Ex. 2: <i>V kontexte</i> príspevku
Semantic translation:	in the context of ...	Ex. 1: <i>In the context of</i> support of development Ex. 2: <i>In the context of</i> the article ...
Target text	Infinitive of purpose Preposition of place	Ex. 1: (<i>in order</i>) to support the development Ex. 2: <i>In</i> the paper
in the form of		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	vo forme, v podobe	... buď <i>v podobe</i> zhodného alebo nezhdného atribútu
Semantic translation:	in the form of	... either <i>in the form of</i> attributive modifier or post-modifier
Target text	preposition of manner	... either <i>as</i> an attributive modifier or a post-modifier
in the field of		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	v/do oblasti	... môže zasahovať aj do <i>oblasti</i> športovej edukológie
Semantic translation:	in/into the field of	... it may also interfere with <i>the field of</i> sports education
Target text	in/with	... it may also overlap <i>with</i> \emptyset sports education
with the aim		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	s cieľom	<i>s cieľom</i> dosiahnutia
Semantic translation:	with the aim/goal/objective to	<i>with the aim</i> to achieve
Target text	Infinitive of purpose	<i>(in order)</i> to achieve

The corpus provided a wealth of what are considered semantically empty modifiers in a phrase in English. Moreover, the phrase is structurally over-complex, and meaning becomes lost in this structure. It may be better expressed by a single-word preposition (of manner or place, depending on the co-text) or by an infinitive of purpose. Unlike Slovak, English has a form that can be used instead of a purpose clause, i.e. infinitive of purpose. In the end, structural or semantic over-complexity or hypercharacterization may cause dilution of meaning as English prioritizes straightforward language.

4.3 Case 3

Effect: Quasi-binomial

Type of padding: tautology

The corpus made available examples of coupled noun phrases that form-wise bear resemblance to binomials; however, semantically, they do not meet the criteria of binomials as the same sense is doubled. For this reason, we refer to them as quasi-binomials. Syntactically, they are multiple sentence elements in a synonymous relation, which results in tautology. Even though in some genres (e.g. legal text) they may be conventional, or even required, in academic prose they are avoided. The following table (Table 3) explicates the instances identified in the research corpus.

Table 3 Explication of quasi-binomials

		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	‘Noun A and Noun B’ (synonymous)	Ex. 1: vzdelávacie výsledky a školská úspešnosť Ex. 2: hodnotenie a evaluácia
Semantic translation:	‘Noun A and Noun A’ or ‘Noun B and Noun B’	Ex. 1: educational results and school success Ex. 2: evaluation and evaluation
Target text	‘Noun A’ or ‘Noun B’	Ex. 1: student’s performance/achievement Ex. 2: evaluation

The information presented in Table 3 illustrates what is happening after reading the source structure and before putting in writing a functionally translated structure. The table provides semantic translation that represents a pre-step of the final draft. It is the verbalization of what can be prompted by the source language yet which is eventually unseen in the final translation, as a professional translator spots the interference and avoids it. In Example 1, we are aware that result & success and educational & school are discrete lexemes. However, in the linguistic environment given in the table, they repeat the proposition, thus are not effective in the given context. In Example 2, it can be seen that some languages use binomials to strengthen the intensity, while other languages have just one form for the meaning of the two – that is why Slovak “hodnotenie a evaluácia” become translated as evaluation and evaluation. The doubling typically derives from the different origin in two languages (Slovak and English). As a result, in translation two identical (formally or semantically) expressions make up the phrase. One element, thus, has to be omitted in the target academic text. We are aware that in some text types coupling of synonyms is not treated as a redundancy issue (legal English); academic writing is not this case, though.

4.4 Case 4

Effect: Terminological over-saturation

Type of padding: hypercorrection

Case 4 represents a category of lexemes that are deemed scholarly. However, their abundance or inappropriate usage generates the opposite effect. It creates a pseudo-image of significance and supreme expertise. In translation, we need to drop it to meet the requirements of reader-friendliness, which is the fundamental feature of academic writing in English. Every occurrence of a term is expected to be justified. Such over-usage makes impression of pretentious language, which is strongly discouraged in English written texts. The overall occurrence of such lexemes was 122.

Table 4 Explication of terminological over-saturation

		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	system (unjustified usage) aspect/factor/rovina/perspektiva	fungovanie dieťaťa v školskom a rodinnom systéme
Semantic translation:	system aspect/factor/level/perspective	the child's functioning in the school and family systems
Target text	∅	child's school performance and behaviour in his/her family ∅

While in informal language, expressions like school, family, etc. are used without any tag; when it comes to academic English, some authors may feel the need to upgrade the lexicon and use tentatively technical language; however, the outcome is what we label as hypercorrection.

4.5 Case 5

Effect: Over-aggregation of nominal phrases

Type of padding: pleonastic stringy phrase

Case 5 exemplifies the accumulation of nominal expressions that cause a reader/translator to spare more processing time on the unveiling of the meaning of a lengthy phrase. We see it as “discourse embroidery” distracting reader’s attention, while not attesting to the explicitness of knowledge transfer. As a matter of fact, syntactic over-complexity does not add to academic credibility. The requirement of reader-friendliness would be met if this structure was denominalized and the number of noun-like elements was reduced. Such usage was identified at least once in one third of papers.

Table 5 Explication of over-aggregated nominal phrases

		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	noun phrase + noun phrase + noun phrase ...	postulovanie potreby výskumu uplatnenia jazyka
Semantic translation:	Multiple of-Genitive	postulating of the need of research of the use of language
Target text		the need for research into the language use was claimed...

Lehmann (2006) uses the terms pleonasm and pleonastic sentences. Our corpus provided examples of what can be called a pleonastic string. This implies multiple nominal phrases (of-phrases) that cause a reader to get lost in a maze of structures and grammatical meaning.

4.6 Case 6

Effect: inadequate implementation of author’s voice

Type of padding: pleonastic phraseme

Case 6 is an example of integrating academic and non-academic styles. However, the usage of a lexeme in figurative meaning is considered inappropriate for specific reasons. Academic writing style is precise, straightforward, logical, and adheres to knowledge transfer in a comprehensive way. Incorporating non-academic figurative language delays information, distracts a reader’s attention, and increases processing time, which hinders the understanding of the idea. The key attribute of Anglo-American academic writing style is that the comprehensiveness and comprehensibility of the text are the writer’s rather than reader’s responsibility. In order to provide a suitable translation solution, text tailoring (omission) and expression change is a reasonable step in making the text compact. It may be part of the author’s personal style (if not in abundance, it is not necessarily disturbing), but we need to keep its purposefulness in mind. The occurrence of such phrasemes is less frequent, or it is typical of specific authors. In the studied corpus, they are not in abundance as the corpus was composed of papers by different authors.

Table 6 Explication of phrases of non-academic tone

		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	Metaphorical language, figurative expressions	Ex. 1: s cieľom doplniť <i>mozaiku</i> poznania o možnosti ... Ex. 2: <i>začala sa písať</i> celkom nová <i>kapitola</i> spolupráce
Semantic translation:	Metaphorical language, figurative expressions	Ex. 1: in order to complete <i>the mosaic</i> of knowledge of the possibilities of benefit Ex. 2: a completely new <i>chapter</i> of cooperation <i>started to be written</i>
Target text	non-figurative language	Ex. 1: enhance \emptyset the knowledge benefits Ex. 2: a new <i>era</i> of cooperation <i>began</i>

We call such usage a pleonastic phraseme. Such a lexeme (mosaic, chapter), though otherwise manifesting propositional meaning, in the style of academic writing and in the specific linguistic environment like above, is void of denotative meaning and acquires a literary flavor, due to which it qualifies as a phraseme.

4.7 Case 7

Effect: Syntactic over-complexity

Type of padding: pleonastic clauses

Case 7 illustrates a syntactic issue of Slovak sentences. Typically, Slovak sentences to be translated are either lengthy or unnecessarily complex, or they contain phrases that reiterate a particular meaning. Their English translation is expected to be more concise. Simplification, void of negative connotation, is of a different nature. It may mean a transition from a clause complex to a simple sentence through eliminating either a main clause, or a subordinate clause. Such usage was identified at least once in one third of papers.

Table 7 Explication of syntactic over-complexity

		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	Lengthy clause complex of which one clause is semantically empty	Ex. 1: <i>Na skutočnosť, že vzťah ... by sa nemal obmedzovať len na kontakt a spoluprácu v prípade výskytu problémov, poukazujú XY (2018).</i> Ex. 2: ... <i>aby sa zo školy stalo miesto</i> podporujúce aktivitu a kreativitu dieťaťa Ex. 3: ... <i>prostredníctvom svojej základnej jednotky, ktorú tvorí text.</i>
Semantic translation:	The idea is identically rendered in English	Ex. 1: XY (2018) <i>point at the fact</i> that the relationship between parents and school should not be limited to contact and cooperation in the case of problem occurrence. Ex. 2: ... <i>so that a school became a place</i> supporting the child's activity and creativity Ex. 3: ... through its base unit <i>which is</i> text.
Target text	Reduced clause	Ex. 1: \emptyset The parent-school relationship should not be limited to dialogue and cooperation merely in problem-solving situations (XY, 2018) Ex. 2: So that school may \emptyset support a child's agency and creativity. Ex. 3: ... through its essential unit – \emptyset text.

Such examples can be referred to as pleonastic clauses. They can be simplified without the loss of meaning. Their simplified version meets the criterion of conciseness while maintaining meaning.

4.8 Case 8

Effect: Redundant exposition of information meant to be implicit and default

Type of padding: pleonastic sentence (sentence complex)

Case 8 represents clauses that can be considered redundant for several reasons. They contain information inherent to academic text and they are intended for a qualified reader who is aware that the paper presents original data and original research conducted by the author/s of the paper. In example no 2, it is apparent or predictable that the two aspects will be tackled and that it will be done in the sections to follow. The translation solution is text tailoring (omission of the clause in the target text). Such usage was identified at least once in one third of papers.

Table 8 Explication of redundant exposition of information

		Example from the research corpus
Source structure:	Clause providing information that is considered default and not expected in the text	Ex. 1: Vybrané výsledky prezentované v nasledujúcich častiach príspevku vychádzajú zo zistení autorského výskumu. Ex. 2: Obom aspektom sa budeme bližšie venovať v nasledujúcom texte.
Semantic translation:	the idea is maintained	Ex. 1: Selected results presented in the following sections of the paper are based on the findings of the author's research. Ex. 2: We will deal with both aspects in more detail in the following text.
Target text	∅	Ex. 1: ∅ Ex. 2: ∅

A pleonastic sentence or sentence complex does not provide any new information, it only acts as a filler, or a means of accumulating characters or words in a text. They do not fulfil a communicative function as they are of zero communicative value.

4.9 Translation solutions applied

Based on the nature of the implemented changes, the logical translation solution would be the Level 1 category of “expression change” – “you can change the way it is expressed” (Pym, 2016, p. 221). However, the Level 2 categories (perspective change, density change, compensation, cultural correspondence) do not apply to the examples studied. What suits better is Pym’s (2016, p. 231) explanation of Level 2 category of “text tailoring”, i.e. “situations where translators legitimately alter what is actually said in the text. This may involve simple corrections of mistakes, the deletion of significant stretches of material that is not relevant to the purpose of the new text.” Yet, this explanation refers to content (as it is part of the Level 1 category of “content change”); the studied examples embody problems related to form. As Pym states, the present typology is an open system and new subtypes can be added. Based on Pym’s consent (personal correspondence, 2024) we suggest that a new subtype be added to Level 2 within the Level 1 category of expression change, namely “expression tailoring”. In our understanding, the studied cases represent specific interlingual situations not accounted for in the 2016 typology. The suggested changes do not alter the meaning, density of information, perspective (semantic focus, sentence focus, voice), or do not suggest a corresponding culture-specific item. They merely mirror the conventions of a different lingua-culture in terms of conciseness of expression. The third level categories may as well include omission or form restructuring. Thus, in summary, we suggest the following translation solution: Level 1 expression change – Level 2 expression tailoring – Level 3 omission or form restructuring.

5. Conclusion

The findings have shaped our understanding of stylistic redundancy and narrowed it down to the concept of padding. We understand stylistic redundancy as unnecessary and repetitive information manifested in the use of avoidable words, phrases, parts of clauses, and even whole clauses. Drawing on Lehmann (2006), we see padding as interlingual pleonasm. Lehman (2006) treats pleonasm and

hypercharacterization as issues of German and English morphology and phraseology, thus providing a springboard for its adoption into translation studies. Based on the findings, we suggest that padding be conceptualized as interlingual pleonasm resulting from lexical, grammatical (syntactic), or stylistic (discourse) asymmetry in a language pair, manifested as dysfunctional redundancy in the target language and unveiled through semantic translation.

In the interlingual relationship, dysfunctional redundancy is language-specific. What is in one language accepted, in a different language may qualify as padding. Padding may take different forms and operate on different levels. The manifestations of padding in the research corpus included elements of phrases, phrases, clauses, and clause complexes that would produce the following effects if translated semantically: redundant modification in naming, semantically empty modification, usage of quasi-binomials, terminological over-saturation, over-aggregation of nominal phrases, inadequate implementation of author's voice, syntactic over-complexity, and redundant exposition of information meant to be implicit and default. The identification of these effects enabled us to arrive at the notional paradigm of padding.

The notional paradigm of padding includes the following: hypercharacterization (due to reiteration of meaning), hypercharacterization (due to semantic emptiness), tautology, hypercorrection, pleonastic stringy phrases, pleonastic phrasemes, pleonastic clauses, pleonastic sentences (sentence complex). We identified two types of hypercharacterization – one due to reiteration of meaning, another due to semantic emptiness. We propose the following definitions of these types of padding. Hypercharacterization is a padding structure occurring on the phrase level and consisting of a head and a modifying element, while the modifying element either reiterates the meaning of the head or it is semantically empty. Tautology is a padding structure on the phrase level while the elements of the phrase are synonymous. Hypercorrection is a padding structure which involves an element seemingly specifying another term, yet it conveys an impression of pretentious language. Pleonastic structures (stringy phrases, clauses, sentences or sentence complex) are padding structures above the phrase level and with zero communicative value. A pleonastic phraseme is considered a padding structure in a specific style, namely if a non-academic unit is used in academic writing style.

We argue that padding acts as a micro-structure factor hindering reader-friendliness, disrupting conciseness, distracting the reader's attention, and weakening the stated arguments. It results in vague and ambiguous language, which is considered contrary to reader-friendly text. This eventually diminishes the text's accessibility, making it "foggy" and thus requiring more processing time on the part of the reader. All this makes padding an issue in translation. However, the present study is preliminary research and the authors suggest that a broader corpus including other study fields should be explored.

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Acknowledgments:

The research results are part of the implementation of the following projects:

1/0173/24 Research providing grounds for establishing a new subfield – writing-for-translation stylistics