

# ELPS: Transfer and translation

For you who translates from Swedish

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## Key terms:

- **L1** = native language(s) – exposed to from birth, acquired “for free”
- **L2, L3, L4, etc.** = picked up later on, acquired “with slog”
- **Information structure (IS)** = how sentences are built
- **Language transfer** = L1 affecting L2, positive or negative
- **Crosslinguistic influence (CLI)** = Two languages affecting each other, usually bilinguals, L1 x L1, L1 x L2, L2 x L3\*
- **Language attrition** = losing your L1

# Interference: writer and translator

- Author's dominant language may influence their writing in a different language:

## **Information for you who wish to study at SLU**

Information about entry requirements, how to apply for a course or programme at SLU and reply to your offer. Have you missed the application deadline you can still make a late admission.



## Cont.

- Translator might transfer features from source into translation:

Och det stannar inte där!

**Och inte nog med det!**

From: 'Svenskan går bananer. En bok om översättningar som syns', Alexander Katourgi



# Risk factor: Language attrition

- Isolation from L1
- First up: lexicon
  - Cross-linguistic interference caused by exposure and L2 dominance
  - Additional risk factor: English with Swedish speakers.
- Grammatical attrition and phonological attrition also “A Thing”

# Transfer both positive and negative

- **Positive:** X works in both languages = cognates
- **Negative:** X works in language A but *not* in language B



# Negative transfer

- False friends
- Syntax and word order
- Plurals
- Definite and/or indefinite articles
- Punctuation conventions
- Verb tenses
- Layout



# False friends/False acquaintances

- aktuell
- eventuell
- konsekvent
- effektiv
- bransch
- merit(er)\*
- även
- (att) mena
- slott
- \*or is that a false friend?



# A nice example



# Other risk areas

- Abbreviations
  - Latin (looking at you “i.a.”)
  - Oj...
- Capitalisation
  - Namely in titles and headings
  - General acceptance of the Swedish way



Oj...



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## About BAJS

## Background

# Nuggets

- Bland annat
  - Often unnecessary and can be chopped unnoticed.
  - Can't be chopped? “Including...”
  - The “inter alia” trap, again: she went to the shop and bought, inter alia, onions, household paper and cheese
- Så kallade
  - “so-called” - we all know that has a different vibe
- Dvs
  - i.e. – not always necessary





# Rhian's Nasties

Inspo source: SFÖ Pitfalls in Sv-En translation 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

- **alternativ**
  - alternative
  - option
- **ekonomi/ekonomisk**
  - economy/economic
  - finance/financial
- **hus**
  - house
  - building
  - premises (?)
- **rutin**
  - routine
  - procedure
- **effektiv**
  - effective
  - efficient
- **stad**
  - city
  - town

# Traits

- S-V-O
- End-weight
- Mobile adverbials
- Swedish - SVO
- V2
- End weight, less flexible
- Fronting

# The fronting trap...

- I denna broschyr ges en förklaring av Eu:s handelspolitik.
- In this booklet there is a description of the EU's trade policy.
- This booklet describes how EU trade policy works.



# Quick Exercise

*Exercise: Go through the text and try to identify where the source language has interfered with the translation.*

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1. For SLU's employees who work primarily with environmental monitoring and assessment, there are three specific titles: environmental assessment assistant, environmental assessment analyst and environmental assessment specialist.
2. They are expected to contribute to the quality work in research.
3. An occupational injury report is only tried by Försäkringskassan to the extent of deciding the right to reimbursement.
4. You may receive temporary parental benefit from Försäkringskassan for a maximum of 120 days to take care of an ill child. You may take 60 days if the ordinary caregiver or the child is ill.

# Main Exercise

## Example text

If you plan to work in Sweden for longer than three months you will instead need a [residence permit](#) (applies for visiting researchers from a non-EU country who are exempt from a work permit, if there is a hosting agreement with the hosting university) or [work permit](#) (applies for those not doing any research and who will mostly do teaching and lecturing).

You must apply for the permit from your native country or other country outside Sweden where you are living. Those who receive a residence permit will be given a residence permit card. The card is proof of your residence permit. When you enter Sweden, you must therefore show your card along with a valid passport.

If you apply on line, using the Migration Board website, you will get a decision sooner, providing that the Migration Board does not need to request further information. However, this time to get a decision from the Migration Board can vary and you need to be patient and follow their instructions. Notice also that SLU cannot and will not try to influence the decision-making time for your visa or residence permit at the Migration Board.

Your spouse/cohabitant and your children can accompany you to Sweden for the duration of your stay. They may also need to get a visa or a residence permit, depending on their citizenship and length of stay.

# Discussion

- What stood out?
- What “works” but might not be idiomatic?
- What made you think “is that right? Do we say that?”
- Sentence presentation, was the order logical?
  - Where was the most important info?
  - Would you stay true to the original, or flip it and/or chop it?

**Owt else?**

A dark blue background with falling raindrops in various shades of blue and purple, and white streaks representing rain.

**Yorkshire proofreaders.**

**Fighting the war on  
t'error..**

# That's it from me

## RECOMMENDED READS

*Svenskan går bananer* – Alexander Katourgi

*Translating for the European Union Institutions* – Emma

Wagner, Svend Bech, Jesús Martínez

*Från källspråk till målspråk* – Rune Ingo

*Pitfalls in Swedish-English translation* – SFÖ publication

“Lämna” [https://www.svd.se/a/dc382c03-dc28-3e68-a143-](https://www.svd.se/a/dc382c03-dc28-3e68-a143-bc47254aee1/ovant-med-naket-lamna)

[bc47254aee1/ovant-med-naket-lamna](https://www.svd.se/a/dc382c03-dc28-3e68-a143-bc47254aee1/ovant-med-naket-lamna)