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In this book, the author examines a French structure that has gained a lot of attention in the last two decades, viz. the gerund. A comparison of its usage in French with the corresponding structures in Swedish shows (1) the multifunctionality of the French gerund and (2) the way Swedish translators deal with this multifunctionality. The study is exclusively synchronic and descriptive.

The first chapter introduces the corpus used for the study, which is composed of 13 French and 13 Swedish novels together with their respective Swedish and French translations (52 novels in total). It also presents the theoretical framework, which is mostly built on the work of Swedish authors (e.g. Halmøy 2003) and on Kleiber (e.g. 2007, 2009). The absence of a general framework and of modern theories is one of the weakest points of the book.

The first part of the book – exclusively concerned with French – opens with Chapter 2. This chapter examines the frequency of the gerund in the corpus (1,684 cases in the original-French novels and 2,304 in the translated-French novels) and shows that the gerund is more frequent in novelistic fiction than in written press and spoken language.

Chapter 3 explores the syntax of the French gerund. In its prototypical use, the gerund has an implicit subject that is coreferential with the subject of its governing predicate. Only rarely does it have a subject different from that of its governing predicate. Unfortunately, these rare cases are not further examined. Studying these cases from the perspective of a discourse-related theory such as logophoricity (cf. Hagège 1974) might prove interesting. Other syntactic properties of the gerund are its ability to take complements (e.g. direct objects and adverbs), its free word order with respect to its governing phrase and its possibility to coordinate with other gerunds. Finally, as a consequence of its non-finite character, the gerund does not express grammatical time or aspect, but is situated in time by its governing predicate.

In Chapter 4, which closes the first part of the book, the author deals with the semantics of the gerund. Essentially, the meaning of the gerund is built up from an invariable core meaning and a circumstantial co(n)text-related interpretation. The author follows Kleiber (e.g. 2007) in considering the integrative function as

the invariable core meaning of the gerund, viz. to integrate the action it expresses in the action expressed by its governing predicate so as to conceive of them as one single situation. Depending on the relation between the two actions, this invariable core meaning receives a co(n)textual circumstantial interpretation. The author distinguishes nine such interpretations, divided into three groups. The first group contains the interpretations of concomitance, accompaniment and manner, in which the gerund expresses an action simultaneous with that of its governing predicate. In its fourth interpretation (group 2), the gerund sets the temporal scene of the action of its governing predicate. The third group consists of five logico-causal interpretations: cause, condition, means, consequence and concession. Although this typology is very accurate, the study would have profited from a more general and typological approach to circumstantial relations (e.g. Kortmann 1997; Diessel 2001), which would not only have strengthened the analysis, but would also have enabled interesting cross-linguistic comparisons.

The second part of the book, which focuses on Swedish, starts with Chapter 5. After motivating the comparative approach adopted in the study, the author summarizes the main properties of the French gerund. She then hypothesizes that each Swedish structure corresponding to the French gerund has at least one of its 9 circumstantial interpretations.

Chapter 6 confirms this hypothesis. Swedish has nine structures that correspond to the French gerund, all of which share at least one of its circumstantial interpretations. The Swedish structures are: a present participle, two different PPs (preposition + (*att* +) NP), a coordinated/juxtaposed clause, a relative clause, a circumstantial clause and 3 different main clauses (subject + finite predicate (+ particle) or subject + expressive verb). Although each structure is exemplified, the absence of good glosses hinders non-specialists of Swedish from understanding the correspondences/differences between French and Swedish. The chapter ends by examining how Swedish renders the French gerund (1) in incision, (2) preceded by the adverb *tout* and (3) in its grammaticalized uses.

The book reviewed here is interesting for several reasons. Most importantly, the author shows (1) the multifunctionality of the French gerund, (2) how Swedish deals with this multifunctionality and (3) how the Swedish tendency of making explicit the implicit circumstantial interpretation of the French gerund reflects Swedish translators' concern for semantic precision.

Although the study fits the descriptive goals of the author, it would have been interesting to frame the analysis in a more general, language-independent theoretical framework. I am convinced that this topic could benefit from the use of typological accounts of clause linkage (e.g. Kortmann 1997, Diessel 2001, Hetterle 2015), which have proven efficient at dealing with numerous clause types in very wide and varied language samples. This could be a subject for further research.

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