

TRANSLATING -ING ADJECTIVAL COMPOUNDS INTO ROMANIAN – A CASE OF EXPLICITATION

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Abstract: While compounding is highly productive in English, typically joining two words in a tight-knit semantic and syntactic unit, it is a minor derivational process in Romanian, which favours affixation instead. In light of this typological difference between the two languages, the present paper investigates the translation of English -ing adjectival compounds into Romanian in order to shed light on the strategies translators employ to compensate for the general absence of compounding in the latter language. It is shown that different translation strategies produce a number of regular patterns which lean towards explicitation, though implicitation is not excluded (Blum-Kulka 1986, Klaudy 2003, 2009, Klaudy & Károly 2005 etc.).

Keywords: compensation techniques, deverbal -ing adjectival compounds, explicitation, implicitation, translation strategies

1. Introduction

To expand their lexicons, English and Romanian, and, generally speaking, Germanic and Romance languages, regularly resort to distinct word formation processes, the former favouring compounding (and conversion), whereas the latter usually opts for affixation. This does not mean that compounding is absent in Romanian, only that it is rare. What is more, it produces items that follow patterns different from those of English, which abounds in both primary (root) compounds (*brick red*, *waterfall*, (to) *hand-wash*) and synthetic compounds, which incorporate affixation (*shop-lifter*, *hard-working*, *hand-picked*); in contrast, Romanian compounds are less of the root-root variety, and often incorporate not only derivational affixes (*galben-verzui* ('chartreuse'), *clarvăzător* ('far-sighted'), *binevenit* ('welcome')) but also inflectional morphology like the masculine/feminine Genitive markers in *floarea-soarelui* ('sunflower'), *rochița-rândunicii* ('field bindweed'), and *gura-leului* ('snapdragon'). This typological difference between the two languages makes it difficult for translators to render English compounds into Romanian since it is quite infrequent that an English compound has a Romanian equivalent. What is more, English often produces novel, spontaneous creations, which do not exist in Romanian and whose variable semantics and syntax often challenge the translators' ability to render them.

Building on these observations, the present article investigates the translation of a specific class of English synthetic compounds – that of deverbal -ing adjectival compounds, whose members are to be found in highly variable semantic and syntactic relations, a fact that makes their rendition particularly challenging to translators. The aim of this study is twofold: (1) to identify the strategies the translators adopted to compensate for the absence of corresponding compound forms in Romanian, as well as the syntactic patterns generated by these strategies, and (2) to relate the resulting patterns to the concept of *explicitation* as a translation universal, as proposed by Blum-Kulka (1986), Klaudy and Karoly (2005), Klaudy (2003, 2009), and others. To this purpose, the investigation will be based on a well-represented corpus of hyphenated items selected from three fantasy books by Joe Abercrombie, each rendered by a different translator: *The Heroes*

(2011), translated by Monica Șerban (*Eroii*, Editura Nemira, 2019), *Best Served Cold* (2009), translated by Ruxandra Toma (*Dulce răzbunare*, Editura Nemira, 2017), and *Last Argument of Kings* (2008), translated by Mihnea Columbeanu (*Puterea armelor*, Editura Nemira, 2017). Abercrombie's books are well-suited to this investigation since the dynamic character of his stories is reinforced by his use of various syntactically condensed structures (Goal of Motion constructions, resultatives, different types of compounds (deverbal *-ing* and *-ed* adjectival compounds, denominal *-ed* adjectival compounds), non-finite constructions, etc.). Specifically, the class of *-ing* adjectival compounds is represented by 196 tokens, distributed into four syntactically distinct patterns: A-Ving items (105 tokens), N-Ving items (63), Adv-Ving items (22 tokens), and Q-Ving items (6 tokens).

The study will show that, since Romanian does not generally have corresponding equivalents for the English compounds, their translation will be the result of two opposing tendencies, namely, the translators will either lengthen the structures in their attempt to clarify the syntactic and semantic relations between the two stems of the original compounds, or will shorten them, i.e., render them by single items when the original compounds are lexicalized items with corresponding single-adjective forms in bilingual dictionaries. The analysis will also conclude that the former tendency dominates the picture, due to the fact that there are more new, spontaneous creations not attested in bilingual dictionaries than there are lexicalized forms. In fact, the corpus will demonstrate that, overall, *-ing* adjectival compounds form an open class of lexical items which are the result of a highly productive compounding process. In addition, the analysis will show that the Romanian data supports the conclusions drawn by other studies on the translation of English compounds into other Romance languages (Spanish and Italian), namely, that the translation of English compounds into Romance is frequently subject to obligatory *explicitation*, as defined by Blum-Kulka (1986), Klaudy and Karoly (2005), Klaudy (2003, 2009), Molés-Cases (2019), due to the typological differences between Germanic and Romance languages with respect to the word formation processes they favour. In particular, it will be made apparent that many of the translation strategies employed to render English *-ing* adjectival compounds into Romanian (and Romance) (grammatical transposition, compensation in place, compensation in kind, compensation by splitting) result in the lengthening of the original structures, confirming the status of *explicitation* as a universal translation strategy.

The paper is structured as follows. Section 2 defines and classifies *-ing* adjectival compounds syntactically and semantically and puts forth several predictions based on the identified patterns. Section 3 discusses the various translation strategies used to render *-ing* compounds into Romanian within the framework outlined by Hervey and Higgins (1992), with special focus on the compensation strategies that have as their result the lengthening of the original structures. Section 4 provide a statistical analysis of the corpus and relates the findings to the concept of *explicitation*. Section 5 presents the conclusions.

2. Corpus description and predictions

-Ing adjectival compounds are defined as a subclass of synthetic compounds whose second stem is deverbal (a present participle) and whose first stem, which may be a noun, an adjective, an adverb or a quantifier, operates as either the internal argument or the semantic argument of the verbal stem. In other words, it may be selected by the verb as its complement or it may function as adjunct and receive adverbial interpretation (Manner, Locative, Time, etc.) (see Lieber 1983, Plag 2003, Baciú 2004, etc.). As pointed out in the introduction, there are several patterns depending on the lexical nature of the first stem.

The A-Ving pattern has the largest number of items (105 tokens) and includes mainly compounds built on verbs of perception (*smell, sound, look*), or, more generally, copula-like state verbs (*fit, hang*), some of which are semantically bleached (*seem, go*). Nevertheless, they all select

an adjective as their predicative (*mouldy-looking (pile of papers)*, *unpleasant-smelling (embrace)*, *strange-sounding (accent)*, *scared-seeming (lads)*, *low-hanging (branch)*, *tight-fitting (motley)*). The reason why this pattern is highly productive must be related to the fact that, of the two stems, only the first is semantically heavy and, consequently, highly variable, whereas the second verbal stem is restricted to a small class of basically 'light' verbs, whose sole function is to mediate the relation between the modifying first stem and the noun it refers to. In other words, the two stems are organized into a cut-and-dried mould only one part of which truly varies. It is not surprising, then, that this group includes many lexicalized forms (*fine-looking (mercenaries)*, *better-looking (man)*, *sweet-smelling (air)*, *fine-smelling (steam)*, *ill-fitting (armour)*).

The N-Ving pattern is also highly productive (63 tokens), despite the fact that, in most cases, the two stems are in a syntactic relation where the verbal stem s-selects and c-selects its complement, i.e., the first nominal stem. Contrary to expectations, these syntactic and semantic restrictions do not impede the generation of N-Ving compounds, but rather provide a clear-cut mould whose empty slots can easily be filled in by any verb-complement combination, as long as it is semantically viable. Thus, the status of the noun varies depending on the type of verb that selects it. In most cases, it is the direct object of a transitive verb (*teeth-grinding (ordeal)*, *bone-jarring (crunch)*, *blood-freezing (wail)*, *ear-splitting (fanfare)*, *life-giving (warmth)*), but it may also be the prepositional object of a complex intransitive verb (*law-abiding (man)* < 'man abiding by law'), or a PP functioning as predicative of an unaccusative verb of perception (*wine-stinking (breath)* < 'breath stinking of wine', *onion-smelling (darkness)* < 'darkness smelling of onions'). Atypically, it may even operate as semantic argument (Locative) to the verb it combines with (*baby-stepping (coward)* < 'coward stepping on babies'). Since variation for this pattern involves both stems equally, there are fewer lexicalized forms, though they nevertheless do exist (*mouth-watering*, *self-pitying*, *gut-churning*, *self-serving*, *earth-shaking*).

The Adv-Ving pattern has fewer items (22 tokens) since it is more restrictive in its combinations, i.e., there is little variation to the first (adverbial) stem. Specifically, the first stem may be a bona fide Time adverb (*ever-worsening (luck)*, *still-smoking (house)*, *ever-strengthening (ring of men and steel)*), or an adjective functioning as Manner/Time-denoting adverb in the context (*easy-smiling (jaw)*, *fast-moving (clouds)*, *quick-flowing (river)*, *longest-serving (captain)*, *slow-working (poison)*). The low variation of the adverb-like adjectives might be the reason why many of the items built on them are lexicalized forms (*fast-flowing*, *fast-moving*, *long-serving*, *hard-working*, *slow-moving*).

Finally, there is a small group of items built on the Q-Ving pattern (6 tokens), in which the quantifier is the internal argument (direct object) of the transitive verb stem (*all-vaulting (ambitions)*, *all-knowing (Prophet)*, *all-cloaking (fog)*, *all-thieving (drunk)*, *all-conquering (glow)*). Notice that the quantifier does not vary and readily enters both ordinary (*all-knowing*, *all-conquering*) and less expected combinations (*all-vaulting*, *all-cloaking*, *all-thieving*). None of the items is lexicalized, i.e. attested in English dictionaries, though, interestingly, some of them are rendered by three of the four Romanian compounds present in the corpus (*atotbiruitoarele* (*all-conquering*), *atotcuprinzătoare* (*all-cloaking*), *atoateștiutorul* (*all-knowing*)).

In light of the variety of *-ing* compounds discussed in this section, there are a number of predictions to be made regarding their translation into Romanian. Overall, since compounding is a minor derivational process in Romanian, but highly productive in English, where, as already shown, it generates complex items the constituents of which are found in variable syntactic and semantic relations, the general prediction is that the translation of *-ing* adjectival compounds into Romanian will mostly be a challenging endeavour resulting in a diversity of solutions. In particular, lexicalized compounds in English are predicted to not be an issue for translators since they will be listed in bilingual dictionaries with their Romanian equivalents, most of the time single adjectives, but also paraphrases. For instance, in the English-Romanian Dictionary of the Romanian Academy, *good-looking* is listed as 'frumos, chipeș, arătos, mândru', *self-loving* as

'egoist', *fast-moving* as 'grăbit, repezit, care se mișcă cu rapiditate'. At the same time, novel, spontaneous combinations are predicted to be problematic, since, in the absence of lexicalized equivalents, translators will have to 'decode' these compounds, i.e., make them explicit by adding lexical material that clarifies the semantic and syntactic relations existing between their two stems. Consequently, given the general absence of corresponding compound forms in Romanian, translators are expected to display two opposing tendencies – either the shortening or the lengthening of the original items in the source language. Of the two tendencies, the latter is predicted to dominate the picture in view of the fact that *-ing* adjectival compounding is highly productive and spontaneously generates novel creations which considerably outnumber the 'frozen' forms and justify the status of *-ing* adjectival compounds as an open class of items.

The next section, which investigates the strategies adopted by the translators to render *-ing* adjectival compounds into Romanian and the various patterns they produce, will generally confirm the above-mentioned predictions.

3. Corpus analysis: translation strategies

According to the framework outlined by Hervey and Higgins (1992), the main strategy used to render *-ing* adjectival compounds into Romanian is *grammatical transposition*, a technique that replaces the original grammatical structure with a different structure in the target language. However, as already stated, the syntactic and semantic diversity characterising the many novel creations in the source language compels the translators to resort to a variety of patterns instead of a single choice. Thus, *-ing* adjectival compounds are rendered by a substantial array of structures in Romanian, ranging from different types of syntactic phrases (complex APs, PPs and NPs) to gerundial structures with attributive function to clauses of various kinds (they may be independent/main clauses or subordinate clauses, mostly restrictive relative clauses, but also occasionally other subordinate types as well). As will be demonstrated in what follows, the diversity of patterns is not the result of the exclusive use of grammatical transposition, but rather of the simultaneous use of different translation strategies, all meant to compensate for the lack of corresponding compound forms in Romanian.

One such strategy that is almost always at work concurrently with grammatical transposition is *compensation in place*, ubiquitous due to a typological difference between English and Romanian, i.e. premodification in English must be replaced with postmodification in Romanian, hence, whatever pattern renders the adjectival compound will follow the noun it modifies. In addition, there is another way in which compensation in place, which entails replicating a certain effect in the source text in a different place in the target text, manifests itself. It specifically concerns the local reshuffling in translation of the two stems in the make-up of the modifying compound together with the modified element, as illustrated in the examples below:

- (1) a. I suppose you'd expect *prize-winning teeth* from a *prize-winning dentist*.
b. Cred că te-ai putea aștepta la o *comoară dentară* din partea unei *comori de dentist*.
- (2) a. "They'll do better than they did with that *art-thieving gourmand*."
"Now they'll have an *all-thieving drunk*."
b. - Le va fi mai bine cu mine decât cu *hoțul ăla obsedat de artă și mâncare*.
- Cu un *hoț obsedat de băutură*.

In both (1) and (2), the modifying compounds and the modified nominals switch places in translation in the sense that the modifiers are translated as the modified elements and vice versa. Thus, *prize-winning* in (1) becomes the modified nominal in Romanian (*comoară* (lit. 'treasure')), while the head nominal *teeth* becomes the Attribute expressed by a single adjective (*dentară* (*dental*)). Similarly, in the second part of the sentence, the same compound *prize-winning* is translated as the first noun marked by Genitive case (*unei comori* ($\approx$ *of a treasure*)) in the binominal qualitative construction *o comoară de dentist* ('a treasure of a dentist'), with the original

noun head becoming the complement of P in the prepositional phrase *de dentist* (lit. 'of dentist'). The examples in (2) are slightly more complex and involve some degree of creative license, in the sense that, while the verbal stem of the compound (*thieving*) becomes the head noun in the Romanian version (*hoț* ('thief')), in both cases it is modified by an adjectival past participle (*obsedat* ('obsessed')), which selects for a PP that renders not only the meaning of the nominal head in the source language (*de mâncare* ('with food'), translating *gourmand*, and *de băutură* ('with drinking'), translating *drunk*), but also the meaning of the first stem (*de artă* ('with art') < *art-thieving*). Notice that the use of compensation in place often leads to the lengthening of the original structure to various degrees, ranging from the mere insertion of one of the original elements in a prepositional phrase to the addition of items that were not part of the original structures, as is the case of the past participle *obsessed*. Romanian requires the use of such elements to spell out the syntactic and semantic relations existing not only between the two stems of the compounds, but also between the compounds themselves and the nominals they modify.

Another compensatory strategy is *compensation in kind*, which involves the replacement of one type of textual effect in the source text with another type in the target text; in particular, denotative meanings are replaced with connotative meanings and vice versa, as illustrated below:

- (3) a. A flood of *thigh-slapping* manly *amusement*.
b. Se dezlănțui o furtună de *hohote amuzate*.
- (4) a. ... latch dropping with a *final-sounding click*.
b. Zăvorul căzu cu un *pocnet prevestitor de nenorociri*.
- (5) a. *wine-stinking breath*
b. *răsuflarea lui cu miros de vin*.
- (6) a. His horse carried him forwards with *gut-churning speed*...
b. Calul îl purta înainte cu o *viteză amețitoare*.

The literal meanings of the compounds in (3) and (4) are replaced with connotative meanings. In (3), compensation in kind operates concomitantly with compensation in place as the modifying compound *thigh-slapping*, with literal meaning, becomes the head noun *hohote* ('peals'/'roars' (of laughter)), carrying a metaphorical dimension, as it calls to mind the loud sound produced by slapping one's thighs. Similarly, the denotative *final-sounding (click)* in (4) is reinterpreted as *pocnet prevestitor de nenorociri* (lit. 'click portending calamities', i.e., 'ominous click'), thus acquiring a connotative dimension. In contrast, the evaluative meaning of *stink* in *wine-stinking breath* is lost when the translator opts for the prosaic 'smell' in *cu miros de vin* (≈ 'smelling of wine') instead of using a stronger noun like *duhoare* ('stench') or the verb *a duhni* ('to stink') (*răsuflare ce duhnea a vin* (lit. 'breath that stunk of wine')). In like manner, the connotative force of *gut-churning (speed)*, which evokes a nauseating feeling, is lost in translation when it is replaced with the single adjective with denotative meaning *amețitoare* in *viteză amețitoare* (≈ 'dizzying speed').

By far the most frequently used compensatory strategy, in addition to grammatical transposition, is *compensation by splitting*. Since it entails the use of several words in the target text for a single word in the source text, it is the main reason why lengthening the original derivatives is the dominant tendency. Moreover, the syntactic patterns resulting from its application come in many forms as compounds are rendered by miscellaneous syntactic phrases and clauses.

Among the syntactic phrases that translate compounds into Romanian are prepositional phrases, complex adjectival phrases consisting of an adjectival head selecting for a PP complement or adjectives modified by adverbs, and complex noun phrases, whose nominal heads also subcategorize for PPs as their complements:

- (7) a. A ruthless, scheming, lying, *apprentice-seducing, mass-murdering* (...) peasant thief...

- b. O țărancă hoată și fără scrupule. O complotistă și o mincinoasă. O *seducătoare de ucenice* și o *criminală în masă*.
- (8) a. The simple joy of the *life-giving* warmth on its face, the caress of the breeze.
b. Simpla plăcere a căldurii *dătătoare de viață* pe chipul lui, mângâierea vântului îl încântă.
- (9) a. Just the same old *smoke-smelling* dimness...
b. Doar aceeași penumbră *cu miros de fum*...
- (10) a. Grubby and *tired-looking*, every one of them staring at her, shocked and fearful...
b. Oameni jecoși, *cu chipuri ostenite*, care se holbau șocați și speriați la ea...
- (11) a. I am a *law-abiding* man, and always have been.
b. Sunt un om *cu respect pentru lege*, dintotdeauna am fost.

All the examples above are instances of compounds shifting to complex syntactic phrases. The compounds *apprentice-seducing* and *mass-murdering* in (7) are both rendered by complex NPs in which the second stems are translated as the nominal heads *seducătoare* ('seducer') and *criminală* ('murderer'), while the first stems are attributed the status of complements of P in prepositional phrases functioning as Attributes of the two head nouns (*de ucenice* ('of apprentices') and *în masă* (lit. 'in mass')). In (8), the compound *life-giving* is rendered by a complex AP headed by the adjective *dătătoare* (corresponding to the second stem *giving*), which selects for another PP (*de viață* ('of' life')) translating the first stem. Examples (9), (10) and (11) are all instances of compounds rendered by PPs headed by the default comitative preposition *cu* (*with*), which may indicate possession and which, in this case, introduces the property that characterises the head noun ('x possessing/endowed *with* property y'). All these prepositional phrases are cases of embedding as their nominal complements *miros* ('smell') in (9), *respect* ('respect') in (11) and *chipuri* ('faces') in (10), in their turn, select for other PPs (*de fum* ('of smoke') in (9), *pentru lege* ('for law') in (11)) or get modified by APs like *ostenite* ('tired') in (10).

Overall, the examples in (7) to (11) reveal the pervasiveness of prepositions in the translation of compounds, which Romanian requires as relational elements that can clarify the syntactic and semantic relations established not only between the two stems of the English compounds, but also between the compounds themselves and the nominals they modify when the former are rendered by complex PPs. Notice also that their addition always results in the (minimal) lengthening of the original structures, confirming the prediction that this is the translators' main tendency.

Alternatively, lengthening as the translators' first choice is also the effect of their rendering compounds by means of clauses, as illustrated below:

- (12) a. ... plunging her suddenly into fusty, *onion-smelling* darkness.
b. ... aruncând-o brusc într-o beznă *ce duhnea a ceapă* și umezeală.
- (13) a. Cosca strolled past, slapping a *puzzled-looking* Shivers on the back...
b. Cosca îl bătu prietenește pe umăr pe Fiori, *care se transformase într-o stană de piatră*.
- (14) a. Silver gleamed in the sunlight with that special, *mouth-watering* twinkle that somehow only money has.
b. Doar văzând cum scânteiau arginții în lumina soarelui *începeai să salivezi*...
- (15) a. ... went into someone shield-first with a *bone-jarring* crunch...
b. ... se lovi de scutul cuiva și *oasele pocniră*.
- (16) a. I daresay that's a *better-looking* man there.
b. Mi se pare *că ăla din oglindă arată mai bine decât mine*.
- (17) a. She gave vent to the shrillest, longest, most *blood-curdling* girlish scream she could manage.
b. Scoase cel mai ascuțit, mai lung și mai copilăros țipăt cu puțință, *de până și sîngele s-ar fi covăsit la auzul lui*.
- (18) a. Into the *smoke-smelling* darkness of the house, slashes of sunlight through the ill-fitting shutters, across bare boards and bald old furs.
b. În întunericul *mirosind de fum* al casei, razele soarelui pătrundeau prin obloanele prost prinse, mângâind rafturi goale și blănuri roase.
- (19) a. An *unhappy-seeming* press has gathered to watch...
b. În jur se strânseseră câțiva gură-cască, *părând cam nemulțumiți*...

As the examples above indicate, compounds are translated by a variety of sentence types, both main and subordinate clauses, finite and non-finite. By far the dominant choice is rendering compounds by means of relative clauses functioning as Attributes, which is only to be expected considering that they are complex modifiers translating more compact structures with the same function. They may be of the restrictive type like [*beznă*] *ce duhnea a ceapă* ('[darkness] which stank of onion') for *onion-smelling darkness* in (12), or non-restrictive relative clauses like [*Fiori*], *care se transformase într-o stană de piatră* ('[Shivers], who had turned into stone') for a *puzzled-looking Shivers* in (13). Notice that this apposition is built on an idiomatic collocation (*a se preface/transforma în stană de piatră* ('to turn into stone')) resulting from the simultaneous application of compensation in kind, which causes a shift from denotative to connotative meaning. *Mouth-watering (twinkle)* in (14) and *bone-jarring (crunch)* in (15) are rendered by main clauses (*începeai să salivezi* ('you started salivating') and *oasele pocniră* ('the bones cracked')) and are the result of both compensation by splitting and free translation. Similarly, free translation and compensation by splitting work together to render the meanings of *better-looking (man)* in (16) and *blood-curdling (scream)* in (17). However, in these cases, they produce subordinate clauses: a Subject Clause ([*Mi se pare*] *că ăla din oglindă arată mai bine decât mine*. ('[It seems to me] that the one in the mirror looks better than me.)) for *better-looking*, and an Adverbial Clause of Result for *blood-curdling (scream)* ([*Scoase cel mai ascuțit, mai lung și mai copilăros țipăt cu puțință*], *de până și sângele s-ar fi covăsit [la auzul lui]*. ('[She gave the shrillest, longest, most childish shout possible], that even blood would have clotted [when hearing it].')). Finally, the compounds in (18) and (19) (*smoke-smelling (darkness)* and *unhappy-seeming (press)*) are rendered by gerundial structures functioning as Attributes ([*întunericul*] *mirosind de fum* ('[the darkness] smelling of smoke'), and [*câțiva gură-cască*], *părând cam nemulțumiți* ('[a few loiterers], seeming rather unhappy')).

The complete opposite of compensation by splitting, *compensation by merging* has as its effect the shortening of the original derivatives since it entails the replacement of a complex phrase in the source text - a two-item compound, in this case - with a single word or a shorter phrase in the target text - single adjectives, but also single nouns in the present corpus, as illustrated below:

- (20) a. The upper ford was a patch of *slow-moving water*...
b. Vadul superior era o întindere de *apă domoală*...
- (21) a. ... said Shivers, and his voice was *strangled-sounding*....
b. ... replică Fiori cu un *glas gătuțit*...
- (22) a. a *grizzled-looking veteran*
b. un veteran *cărunt*
- (23) a. Someone in the audience gave a single, *ear-splitting scream*.
b. Cineva din public scoase un singur *țipăt asurzitor*.
- (24) a. a *burly-looking man* in a ragged coat
b. o *matahală* cu haină jerpelită...
- (25) a. Even where Shivers came from they would've been reckoned a *rough-looking set*.
b. ... ar fi fost considerați niște *brute* chiar și în ținuturile natale ale lui Fiori.

Most of the compounds rendered by single adjectives belong to the A-Ving pattern (45 tokens out of a total of 68 (66.17%)). Their high number can be easily accounted for if one considers the internal make-up of these compounds. In Section 2, it was pointed out that they are built on copula-like state verbs which select for a predicative. Of the two elements, it is the adjectival stem functioning as predicative that has semantic relevance and, therefore, readily gets translated as single adjective, whereas the more or less semantically bleached copula-like verb can be ignored in translation precisely because its meaning is 'light'. It is the case of *strangled-sounding (voice)* in (21), built on the verb of perception *sound*, which is rendered as *gătuțit* – the perfect equivalent of *strangled*. It is also the case of *grizzled-looking (veteran)*, also based on a verb of perception (*look*), which is translated as *cărunt* - the perfect equivalent of *grizzled*. What

is more, as already discussed in Section 2, many of the items belonging to this group, including the examples in (21) and (22), have lexicalized equivalents in Romanian *fine-looking* (*atrăgător, frumos, chipeș*), *savage-looking* (*fioros, sălbatic*), *tattered-looking* (*zdrențăros*). The other patterns are less often translated as single adjectives; there are 13 items in the N-Ving group (19.11%) and 9 items in the Adv-Ving group (13.23%), with only one token in the Q-Ving set (1.47%). The N-Ving examples, including *ear-splitting* (*asurzitor*) in (23), are mostly lexicalized forms in English with corresponding single-adjective equivalents in Romanian (*self-serving* (*egoist*), *awe-inspiring* (*impresionant*), *earth-shaking* (*cutremurător*)) or simply novel combinations for which the translators found a lexicalized form (for instance, *self-congratulating vermin* is translated as *javra împăunată*, and *bone-cracking gallop* as *galop năprasnic*). In like manner, Adv-Ving items are either lexicalized forms in English with equivalents attested in bilingual dictionaries (*slow-moving* (*water*) ((*apă*) *domoală*) in (20) above, *hard-working* (*muncitor*), *fast-flowing* (*water*) ((*apele*) *repezi*) or new forms with lexicalized equivalents like *quick-flowing* (*river*), translated as (*râul*) *învolverat*. Alternatively, compounds may infrequently end up translated as single nouns (like *burly-looking man* translated as *matahală* ('giant', 'hulk', 'behemoth') in (24) and *rough-looking* (*set*) rendered as *brute* ('brutes', 'beasts') in (25) above.

While the translation strategies discussed so far have one of two opposing effects - the lengthening or the shortening of the English compounds, *literal translation* is supposed to produce a structure that is faithful to the original. According to Hervey and Higgins, it is

a word-for-word translation, giving maximally literal rendering to all the words in the ST [source text] as far as the grammatical conventions of the TL [target language] will allow; that is, literal translation is SL[source language]-oriented, and departs from the ST sequence of words only where the TL grammar makes this inevitable. (Hervey and Higgins 1992:250)

In the present corpus, literal translation is used when English compounds are rendered by equivalent compounds in Romanian, and, in a single case, when the A-Ving item is translated by an Adv-Ved item, as illustrated below:

- (26) a. Fishing's a bastard of a living. Almost as hard as farming, and even *worse-smelling*.
b. Viața de pescar e al naibii de proastă. Aproape la fel de grea ca aceea de fermier, dar mult *mai rău mirositoare*.
- (27) a. ... even the stars denied him by Sipani's *all-cloaking* fog.
b. Dar până și stelele refuzau să i se arate privirii, ascunzându-se în ceața *atocuprinzătoare* din Sipani.
- (28) a. "But wherever are your *all-conquering* Thousand Swords now?"
b. - Dar pe unde mai sunt acum *atotbiruitoarele* tale Săbii?
- (29) a. the *all-knowing* Prophet Khalul
b. *atoateștiutorul* Profet Khalul
- (30) a. Into the smoke-smelling darkness of the house, slashes of sunlight through the *ill-fitting* shutters, across bare boards and bald old furs.
b. În întunericul mirosind de fum al casei, razele soarelui pătrundeau prin obloanele *prost prinse*, mângâind rafturi goale și blănuri roase.

Of the five examples above, only (26) is a perfect rendition of the original compound down to the comparative degree on the first stem (*worse-smelling* - *mai rău mirositoare*). The compounds translating the English items based on the Q-Ving pattern follow the original structures slightly more loosely, in the sense that they incorporate inflectional morphology, as required by the grammatical rules of Romanian and as suggested by Hervey and Higgins (1992:250). Specifically, in addition to the inflectional markers for gender and number attached to the end of the adjectives, the quantifier representing the first stem is rendered into Romanian by a Genitive phrase (*a+tot+biruitoarele* < 'of.GEN+all.M.SG+conquering', *a+tot+cuprinzătoare* < 'of.GEN+all.M.SG+encompassing', *a+toate+știutorul* < 'of.GEN+all.F.PL+knowing'). Last but not least, there is the odd example of *ill-fitting* (*shutters*) in (30), translated as (*obloanele*) *prost*

prinse (lit. 'ill-fitted'). In other words, this A-Ving compound is rendered by a syntactic structure usually employed to translate English Adv-Ved adjectival compounds - [modifying adverb + adjectival past participle], as in *fresh-dug (ditch)* – (*șanț*) *recent săpat*.

Overall, this section has shown that the general absence of compounding in Romanian compels translators to resort to compensatory strategies that usually lengthen rather than shorten the original derivatives due to the need to clarify the semantic and syntactic relations existing between the two stems of the compound, as well as between the compound itself and the nominal it modifies.

4. Statistical analysis

This section discusses the statistical data related to the findings of the analysis conducted in the previous section with the purpose of assessing the validity of the predictions introduced in Section 2.

The main prediction was that a combination of factors, namely, the substantial semantic and syntactic variety of *-ing* adjectival compounds combined with the general absence of compounding in Romanian, would force the translators to adopt diverse strategies in order to compensate for this absence. Overall, their solutions were predicted to depend on the type of compound to be translated. If the compound was a lexicalized item listed in English-Romanian dictionaries, then the prediction was that the translators would use the solutions provided in the lexical entries of the respective items, shown to be usually single adjectives and sometimes explanatory paraphrases. In contrast, if the compound was a novel creation, then the expectation was that the translators would adopt a compensatory strategy that would 'decode' the syntax and semantics of the respective item. In other words, they would end up adding lexical material to clarify the syntactic and semantic relations between the two stems of the compound. The two paths were predicted to lead to different results, specifically, to either the lengthening or the shortening of the original derivatives in translation. The final prediction was that lengthening would dominate the picture since *-ing* adjectival compounding is a highly productive process, readily generating novel creations, which outnumber the lexicalized forms, hence there are more forms that require decoding or explaining than there are ready-made solutions of the single adjective type.

The statistical data provided in the tables below confirm these predictions. Table 1 delivers an account of the number and types of syntactic patterns resulting from the adoption of the various translation strategies investigated in Section 3. Table 2 provides detailed statistics regarding the distribution of single item vs. phrase/clause type per identified compound pattern.

Table 1. Translation patterns

Compound to phrase/clause	Compound to single item	Compound to compound	Omission	Shift in meaning (error)	Total
114 (58.16%)	68 (34.69%)	4 (2.04%)	8 (4.08%)	2 (1.02%)	196

Table 2. Single item and phrase/clause distribution per translation pattern

Pattern	PP	Complex AP	Complex NP	Adv-Ved	Relative clause	Other subordinate	Main clause	Gerund	Compound	Single item
A-Ving 105 items 3 omitted	23	15	3	1	7	1	4	2	1	45
N-Ving	8	6	10	0	14	1	4	2	0	13

63 items 3 omitted 2 errors										
Adv-Ving 22 items 2 omitted	2	3	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	9
Q-Ving 6 items	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Total	34/114 29.82%	24/114 21.05%	16/114 14.03%	1/114 0.87%	23/114 20.17%	2/114 1.75%	10/114 8.77%	4/114 3.50%	4	68

Table 1 confirms that the translators' first choice was indeed to produce expanded structures when rendering *-ing* adjectival compounds into Romanian as 114 out of a total of 196 tokens (58.16%) are either complex phrases of different kinds (PPs, complex APs, complex NPs) or clauses of different types (both main/independent and subordinate clauses). As speculated in Section 2 and demonstrated by the analysis in Section 3, lengthening is the result of the concomitant application of various translation strategies that have said effect (grammatical transposition, compensation by splitting, compensation in place, compensation in kind, free translation). Their application is a must since, as indicated by the corpus, the class of *-ing* adjectival compounds consists of numerous novel creations whose stems are in various semantic and syntactic relations that need spelling out in translation.

When compounds are translated by means of phrases and clauses, the most frequently chosen structure is the prepositional phrase (34 out of 114 tokens – 29.82%), closely followed by complex adjectival phrases whose A head is modified by an AdvP or subcategorizes for a PP (24 out of 114 tokens – 21.05%) and relative clauses (23 out of 114 tokens – 20.17%). However, a closer look at Table 2 reveals that results vary when one considers the syntactic patterns translated by different types of phrases and clauses. Thus, A-Ving compounds are mainly rendered by PPs (23 items) and complex APs (15 items), though by far the preferred choice is their translation as single adjectives (45 items), which is discussed below. The reason why they are often rendered by PPs must be related to their internal make-up. Remember that these compounds are built on copula-like state verbs, the great majority of which are verbs of perception (*look*, *smell*, *seem*), with *look* easily identifiable as the most frequently occurring verb (17/23 PP occurrences). They are semantically light, whereas the element that carries the semantic load is the first stem predicative. There are two clear-cut patterns to the translation of such combinations. One involves their rendering as single adjectives, to be discussed below, the other their translation as prepositional phrases introduced by the default comitative preposition *cu* (*with*), which selects for a noun complement whose meaning mirrors the semantics of the perception verb, while the first stem is translated as a modifying adjective of this nominal (*the sweet-smelling air* (*aerul cu miros dulceag* – lit. 'air-the with smell sweet'), *worried-looking fellow* (*băiatul cu expresie îngrijorată* – lit. 'boy-the with expression worried'), *mouldy-looking pile of papers* (*teanc de hârtii cu aspect mușcăit* – lit. 'pile of papers with aspect mouldy'). Thus, *look* is often translated as *aspect*, *expresie*, *chip*, *înfățișare*, *figură*, and *smell* as *miros* and *duhoare*. Alternatively, there are two other patterns analyzed as complex APs – the [adverb+adjective] combination in *dangerous-seeming crowds* (*grupuri aparent periculoase*), and the [adjective+PP] combination in *vicious-looking scar* (*cicatrice păcătoasă la înfățișare*). In contrast, N-Ving compounds are translated mostly as relative clauses (14/63 tokens) in another cut-and-dried combination whereby the verbal stem is the predicate of the relative clause and the first stem is translated as the complement of the verb (*with a finger-numbing clang* – *cu o lovitură care îi amorți degetele*; *peasant-loving hypocrite* – *ipocritul ăla care iubește țărani*). In this case, both stems are semantically loaded and require translation,

and since such compounds are mainly built on a direct object-transitive verb combination, the relative clause solution, which helps retrieving the basic verb-object word order is readily available.

According to Table 1, translating *-ing* adjectival compounds by means of single adjectives, and, infrequently, single nouns, ranks second (68 out of 196 tokens – 34.69%), and is the result of the strategy of compensation by merging. As already indicated, 45 out of the 68 single-item tokens translate compounds of the A-Ving variety due to the syntactic and semantic properties of the two stems. To reiterate, while the first stem carries the semantic content of the modifying compound and is rendered by that single adjective, the second stem is a semantically 'light' copula-like verb which does not necessarily require translation for this very reason (though a different (PP) solution has already been discussed above). What is more, the special internal make-up of these compounds also accounts for the presence of many lexicalized forms in this group, which have corresponding equivalents in bilingual dictionaries, many of them being single adjectives that translators can easily access.

Finally, both tables emphasize the scarcity of Romanian compounds as lexicalized forms that could render the meanings of English *-ing* adjectival compounds. This reinforces the idea that English and Romanian are typologically different in so far as they opt for different word formation processes to expand their lexicons (English favours compounding and conversion, Romanian, affixation).

From a more general perspective, the findings of the present analysis regarding the translators' selection of strategies that expand the original compound structures are similar to the conclusions drawn by other studies on the translation of compounding in Romance (see Labrador de la Cruz and García (2010) for Spanish and Pierini 2015 for Italian). Overall, they all lend support to the claim that explicitation as defined by Blum-Kulka (1986), Klaudy and Karoly (2005), Klaudy (2003, 2009, 2017), and others, is in fact a translation universal in so far as many of the operations uncovered by this investigation involve explicitation (grammatical transposition, compensation by splitting, compensation in kind, compensation in place, free translation). As far as the translation of *-ing* adjectival compounds is concerned, grammatical explicitation is actually a must, due to the typological differences between English and Romance languages. However, with compensation by merging covering 34.69% of the cases, implicitation ranks a relatively close second. As already discussed, this is not surprising considering the availability of many lexicalized forms in the A-Ving group with single-adjective equivalents in Romanian, as well as the possibility of regularly ignoring the verbal stem of A-Ving compounds in translation and focusing strictly on finding a single-adjective correspondent for the adjectival first stem.

5. Conclusions

The present analysis has investigated the translation strategies adopted to render *-ing* adjectival compounds from English into Romanian in view of the fact that they favour different word formation processes and that compounding has a different status in the two languages. It has been shown that this typological difference is the reason why translators have to resort to strategies that result either in the lengthening or the shortening of the original compounds, depending on the type of compound to be translated. The analysis has indicated that lexicalized compounds present in bilingual dictionaries provide translators with easy access to solutions present in the lexical entries of these items, often single items (mostly adjectives, but also nouns), leading to the shortening of the original structures. However, the investigation has revealed that it is the opposite tendency that dominates the picture, i.e., translators more frequently opt for strategies that lengthen the original structures in view of the fact that, more often than not, they have to translate spontaneous, novel creations whose stems are in highly variable semantic and syntactic relations that have to be made explicit. From this perspective, the analysis has been shown to fall in line

with similar studies on the translation of compounding in other Romance languages, which all verify the status of explicitation as a universal translation strategy.

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