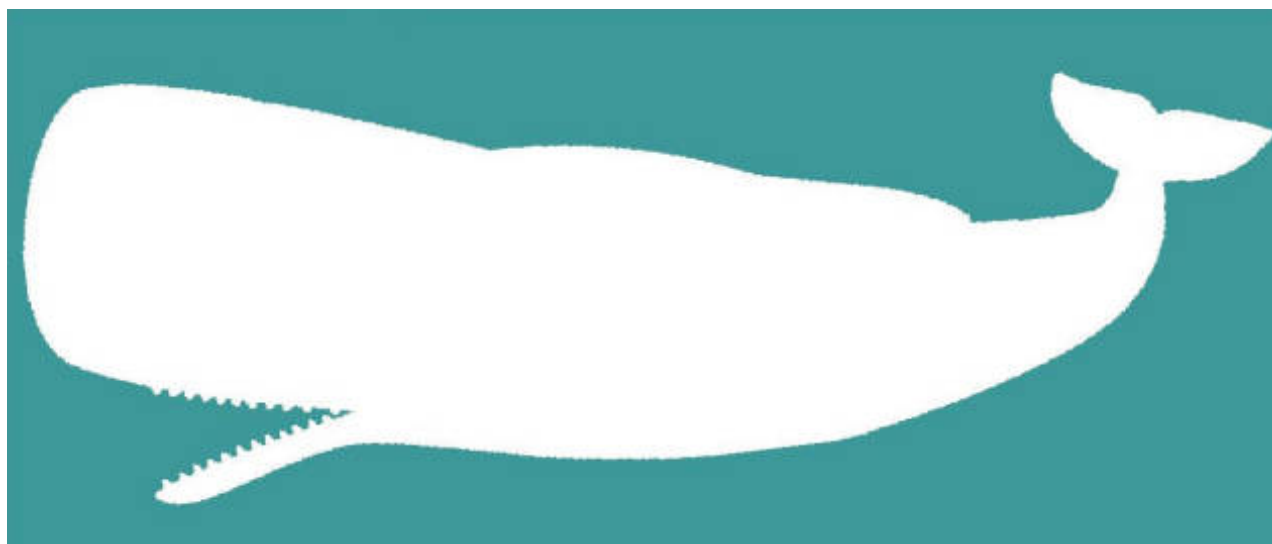




Bachelor's Thesis

Trine Ruby

A Contrastive Analysis of Two Danish Translations of Herman Melville's *Moby Dick; Or, The Whale*



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Denne opgave har til formål at identificere forskellene i tilgangen til to danske oversættelser af Herman Melville's *Moby Dick; Or, The Whale* og derefter give et bud på, hvilken af oversættelserne der er mest vellykket. Den ældste oversættelse er skrevet af Mogens Boisen i 1955, og den nyeste er skrevet af Flemming Chr. Nielsen i 2011. For at kunne definere forskellene er der foretaget en kontrastiv analyse af de to oversættelser på mikroniveau og makroniveau, hvor de bliver sammenlignet med den engelske original og med hinanden. Først blev der foretaget en kvantitativ analyse af mikrostrategier i form af en strategioptælling og derefter en kvalitativ analyse af eksempler fra empirien. Denne analyse viste, at begge oversættelser er mest kildetekstorienterede på makro-niveauet, men at den nyeste oversættelse benytter sig af flere måltekstorienterede mikrostrategier end den ældste.

En brugerundersøgelse af seks danske deltagere, som hver fik tildelt det samme kapitel af de to oversættelser og herefter blev interviewet, afslørede, at fem ud af seks deltagere forstod indholdet i den nyeste oversættelse bedre end i den ældste. Størstedelen af deltagerne foretrak den nyeste oversættelse grundet oversættelsens ordvalg og nutidige sprogbrug.

På baggrund af den kontrastive analyse samt brugerundersøgelsen blev det konkluderet, at den nyeste oversættelse, som er kildetekstorienteret med det højeste brug af måltekstorienterede mikrostrategier, er den mest vellykkede af de to oversættelser.

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List of abbreviations

O	Original (represented in tables and examples)
R1	Research question 1
R2	Research question 2
R3	Research Question 3
ST	Source-text
TT	Target-text
T1	Translation 1 (Mogens Boisen's translation)
T2	Translation 2 (Flemming Chr. Nielsen's translation)

1. Introduction

Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* was first published in 1851 in the United Kingdom in just 500 copies, selling fewer than 300 copies within the first four months (Parker 488). Mogens Boisen's Danish translation from 1955 was the only reputable Danish translation of Melville's *Moby Dick; Or, The whale*, until Flemming Christian Nielsen's translation was published in 2011 (Nielsen; *Moby Dick* 30). It may be questioned why a translator and/or a publishing house found it necessary to publish a new translation of a classic such as *Moby Dick*, which was written more than one and a half century ago. One hypothesis could be that the most recent translation was done to provide improvements to the Danish translation from 1955. Another hypothesis could be that a change of language from 1955 to 2011 could be a reason for producing a new translation of Melville's novel, and thus present a translation matching the audience's word use in a contemporary timeframe.

At first sight when reading Nielsen's translation from 2011, the language appears to be different from the language used in Boisen's 1955 translation. In Nielsen's translation, the ambiance of the maritime environment, on board of *Pequod*, is described with longer sentences and with the use of language that may be argued to be of a more complex character, compared to Boisen's translation. When reading Nielsen's translation, you may not get a sense of the fact that the novel is written more than one and a half century ago, because of Nielsen's choice of words and expressions. Nielsen's translation allows the audience to

effortlessly become a part of the narrator Ishmael's tale. Nielsen's translation seems as a more complicated read compared with Boisen's translation because the sentences are noticeably longer, but idiomatic. Nielsen's rich vocabulary structures may be argued to mirror Melville's style more adequately than Boisen's translation. It can be claimed that Nielsen's translation has to be read carefully, if you do not want to miss out on any details or hidden symbolism entangled in Melville's complex play on words.

The objective of this study is to identify the aforementioned institutions concerning the differences in approach in the two translations of Melville's *Moby Dick*. In order to identify the institutions, this study will report on a contrastive analysis of the two Danish translations of *Moby Dick* and of Melville's original. An interview with the translator of the most recent translation of *Moby Dick*, Flemming Chr. Nielsen has been carried out in order to contribute a subjective point of view in the analysis, concerning specific problems of maritime character and Melville's rich word use and how these have been interpreted and translated.

A qualitative questionnaire-based investigation of six Danish readers has been conducted. The questionnaire has been carried out in order to investigate how the audience perceives the translations, and hence it may be determined which translation is more functionally adequate from the reader's point of view.

2. Research questions

The research questions below are formulated with the underlying knowledge that T1 and T2 are produced with an overall different approach, throughout the novel. The three research questions each cover one aspect of the identification of the specific differences in approach between the two translations, and the investigation of the adequacy and functionality of the translations:

R1: What strategies have Mogens Boisen and Flemming Chr. Nielsen used in their translations?

R2: How did Mogens Boisen and Flemming Chr. Nielsen render Melville's maritime prose and rich and complex language in *Moby Dick; Or, The Whale* and what are the differences in terms of translation decisions?

R3: Which of the two translations are more functionally adequate?

In order to answer these research questions, a contrastive analysis of microstrategies and macrostrategies will be carried out, to be able to identify if the translators have decided to focus on the form and the content of the ST or the effect of the TT. A qualitative questionnaire-based investigation will be carried out in order to shed light on possible different opinions from the audience's point of view, with respect to the quality of the two translations, focusing on problems of maritime character and Melville's rich and complex language use.

3. Presentation of Melville's *Moby Dick* and its Danish translations

Melville's *Moby Dick* is narrated by Ishmael, a crewmember of the whale vessel *Pequod*, and revolves around the egomaniacal and at times mad captain of the *Pequod*, Ahab, whose mission is to kill the great white sperm whale, *Moby Dick*, because the whale once ate one of Ahab's legs.

3.1 Herman Melville's *Moby Dick; Or, The Whale*

When first published in Great Britain in October 1851 and in the United States the following month, Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick; or, The Whale* was not a great success as it suffered from negative reviews (Parker 487). The lack of initial success has been attributed to the lack of epilogue in the English edition revealing how Ishmael survived (489). The complexity of the maritime language, the sexual undercurrents, among others, of the, at that time, 800 pages long novel has also been claimed to be influential factors concerning the poor reception (487-488). It was not until the twentieth century that the readership began to embrace Melville's novel. In 1988, the English Northwestern-Newberry-edition was published in English and is, as Nielsen argues in his preface to the novel, by the majority seen as the 'authentic' version of *Moby Dick*, since there is not a known official first edition of Melville's novel (Nielsen, *Moby Dick* 29).

3.2 Presentation of the Danish translations

Melville's *Moby Dick* has been translated into Danish several times. *Moby Dick* was unknown in Denmark, until in 1942, when a shortened edition of Melville's novel was translated into Danish by polar explorer Peter Freuchen. It was the first Danish translation ever published, but Freuchen's translation never received much recognition (Nielsen; *Moby Dick* 30). In 1955, Danish translator Mogens Boisen published a Danish translation of Melville's *Moby Dick* for *Gyldendal* publishing house. Boisen's translation (T1) was the first recognised Danish translation of the novel (30), and thus selected for comparison with the most recent translation, in this study. Nearly 55 years later, in 2011, translator, journalist and writer Flemming Christian Nielsen boarded Melville's complex work about the sperm whale *Moby Dick* and published a new Danish translation (T2) of Melville's novel for the publishing house *Bindslev*. Founder of the publishing house, Kasper Nielsen, claimed that one reason, among others, for publishing a new translation of the novel, was that the language of T1 did not correspond to a contemporary timeframe (personal communication).

3.3 Target audience of the English language version of *Moby Dick*

The 800 pages of complex maritime prose in the original 1851 edition may have meant that the target audience was a narrow group of people. Not only should one be able to read in

general, which in the mid-19th century was not a given, (Britannica online) but one should also be knowledgeable of the maritime environment and be familiar with maritime language in order to comprehend the journey that Melville wanted to express to his readers. Some form of academic understanding may also have been required, which was not normal in the mid-19th century, in order to understand what Melville wanted to portray to his readers. Hence, these factors may influence the modest numbers of copies sold. It may be claimed that the revised 1988 Newbury-edition speaks to a much wider audience, and not solely because of its status as a recognised classic novel. Reasons for this claim may be that over time, as educational standards increased, more people had access to further education and were thus able to comprehend a novel of more complex character such as *Moby Dick*. The revised 1988 edition of the novel is approximately 250 pages shorter and may thus have increased its appeal to a wider audience.

3.4 Purpose and target audience of the Danish translations

To achieve a functionally adequate translation, it is crucial for the translator to recognise and to consider the purpose of a translation and the action of translating (Munday 124).

In the 1970's, Hans J. Vermeer introduced the skopos theory, in which translation is described as a 'translational action based on a source text (ST) – the action has to be negotiated and performed and have a purpose and a result' (Vermeer 193). In other words, a

translator must identify the purpose of the ST to be able to provide a functionally adequate target text (TT). These two factors may differ, according to how these are interpreted by the translator. Eugene Nida argues that these differences in translations 'can generally be accounted for by three basic factors in translating: (1) the nature of the message, (2) the purpose or purposes of the author and, by proxy, of the translator, and (3) the type of audience' (127). In other words, the translators may interpret these three points differently, and hence produce two different translations. With respect to the translations of *Moby Dick*, Boisen and Nielsen must identify their audience, before being able to identify the purpose of their TT: the TT's skopos, and hereby produce a functionally adequate translation.

Dealing with a maritime novel such as *Moby Dick*, the two translators may consider the fact that the target audience of T1 and the target audience of T2 are different from that of Melville's 1851 target audience on a couple of points. The word usage and language usage may have changed significantly. Familiarity of the maritime environment may also have decreased, since maritime labour, amongst these whaling in particular, was much more common around the time when *Moby Dick* was first published (Jackson online).

It may be argued that the target audience of T1 and the target audience of T2 both include people with an educational degree, who are able to comprehend complex phrasing and understand terminology of maritime character. The target audience may possess knowledge of maritime terminology or may take an interest in maritime culture, which can

both be applied to Boisen's and Nielsen's target audiences. It may be asserted that T2 reaches a wider target audience, since it is more common to possess an educational degree today, and thus be able to comprehend the translation, in comparison to the time of T1. Thus, Boisen and Nielsen must have considered the aforementioned points concerning their target audience to be able to reach a functionally adequate translation.

3.5 Translation problems

In the foreword of Nielsen's translation, recognised writer Carsten Jensen claims that Melville's *Moby Dick* is composed with a shovel, with layers tossed on top of each other, referring to Melville's rich word use and his long and complex sentences (Nielsen; *Moby Dick* 12). Translating a complex novel with use of technical terms, in *Moby Dick's* case of maritime character, some requirements have to be met in order to produce a functionally adequate translation.

Nida suggests four basic requirements, for reaching a functionally adequate translation that may be applied to T1 and T2, which are: '(1) making sense, (2) conveying the spirit and manner of the original, (3) having a natural and easy form of expression, and (4) producing a similar response' (127). Nida further argues that 'it is obvious that at certain points the conflict between content and form (or meaning and manner) will be acute, and that one or the other must give way' (134). In respect to Boisen and Nielsen, reaching these four

requirements may create a fan of difficulties, dealing with a novel composed of a rich and complex language use, which will be identified subsequently.

These difficulties need to be identified and subsequently solved in order to achieve a functionally adequate translation. In an interview with the translator of the most recent translation, Flemming Chr. Nielsen, he explained that maritime terminology was the greatest issue when translating Melville's novel (personal communication; F. Nielsen). When reading the English 1851 edition, it may be argued that Melville's rich and complex language is another great issue when translating *Moby Dick*. The translator may have to possess a rich vocabulary in general, but also concerning maritime terminology, or may have to consult people with knowledge of maritime terminology, in order to reach a functionally adequate translation of *Moby Dick*.

Another issue for the translator is how to deal with a ST that is written more than a century ago. The language in the ST is a language that belongs to a different age. Likewise, the maritime environment may be much less known to the readership today, as mentioned earlier, and hence create some difficulties with respect to producing a functionally adequate translation. Thus, the translator must make a decision on how to transfer the maritime terminology and sentences so that the target audience understands the overall message of the novel while at the same time maintaining Melville's rich prose.

4.0 Theory

This chapter will present the theoretical framework used to carry out the contrastive analysis of differences between T1 and T2 and the 1988 English Northwestern-Newberry-edition by Melville. The theories used for this analysis are chosen to provide the most comprehensive comparison between T1 and T2 of Chapter 94 '*A Squeeze of the Hand*', and are presented below. The aim of this contrastive analysis is to provide evidence as to how the two translations differ from one another, focusing on the maritime language and the rich and complex use of words and to provide an estimation of the most functionally adequate translation.

I have chosen to use Vinay and Darbelnet's (1958/2000), Newmark's (1977/1989) and Venuti's (1995) theoretical framework to identify the macrostrategies used in the translations. Subsequently, I will analyse chapter 94, using Vinay and Darbelnet's taxonomy of microstrategies combined with microstrategies of Dirk Delabastita's (1993) taxonomy. Vinay and Darbelnet's and Delabastita's microstrategies will be used to analyse the differences of the maritime language and Melville's rich and complex language use, used in T1 and T2 at word, phrase and sentence level. The combination of Vinay and Darbelnet's and Delabastita's taxonomies provide an overview of specific translation strategies (microstrategies), to be able to identify the specific problems in the chapter.

4.1 Macrostrategies

The translator may need to make an overall decision on how he wants to approach the translation task. Scholars argue that a translator has to decide whether he wants to focus on the form and content of the ST or the effect of the TT. Focusing on the form and content of the ST, the translator employs a ST-oriented macrostrategy; if he focuses on the effect of the TT, it refers to a TT-oriented macrostrategy (Munday 19). These macro-level decisions are made consciously or unconsciously, and shall in this assignment be referred to as macrostrategies. There are several well-known dichotomies at the macro-level, which are all based on employing either a ST-oriented macrostrategy or a TT-oriented macrostrategy.

Before defining what macrostrategies a translator may make use of when carrying out a translation, it is relevant to mention that Boisen and Nielsen are dealing with a translation of fiction. Categorising a translation assignment according to genre may be necessary in order to decide a suitable approach for a particular assignment, and the translators may thus be considerate of this factor in order to achieve a functionally adequate translation. House's distinction of overtness may also be a helpful tool in order to decide the approach at the macro-level, and shall be considered in more detail below.

This study will make use of three theories that may be argued to favour one macrostrategy over the other. Vinay and Darbelnet present two basic choices: a ST-oriented macrostrategy and a TT-oriented macrostrategy. Venuti and Newmark may be argued to

favour each their macrostrategy. Venuti strongly favours a ST oriented approach whereas it may be argued that Newmark favours less of an ST oriented strategy than Venuti. These approaches in terms of macrostrategy will be considered in more detail below.

When categorising a translation, the overt/covert distinction may be helpful to determine whether a translator should focus on the form and content of the ST or the effect of the TT on the macro-level, also meaning that the translator must identify whether ST items should be transferred to the TT or changed. Overt/covert is broadly defined by the readership's awareness of a text being a translation. Table 2 below exemplifies overt and covert translations.

Table 2: examples of the overt/covert distinction according to genre

Overt translation (ST oriented macrostrategy)	Subtitling on Danish television of foreign-language films, series etc.
Covert translation (TT oriented macrostrategy)	Translation of foreign-language children's books, adapted for Danish children.

Broadly, an overt translation (ST-oriented) tends to characterise a text where the readers are aware that they are reading a translation, as opposed to reading the original target-language text (Munday 92). A covert translation (TT-oriented), on the other hand, characterises a text where the readers are not aware, or do not care, that they are reading a translation. A

translator may choose different macrostrategies, after, perhaps, having decided the overtness between these two categories of translation.

4.1.1 Vinay and Darbelnet

Vinay and Darbelnet's theoretical framework includes a dichotomy of macrostrategies. Vinay and Darbelnet propose a dichotomy of two general translation methods: direct translation and oblique translation made up of seven translation procedures (Vinay and Darbelnet 31). These macrostrategies will be applied to T1 and T2 in order to identify the differences between the two translations. According to Vinay and Darbelnet, a translator can choose between direct (or literal) translation and oblique translation, claiming that direct translation is the basic, unmarked choice at the macro-level (36).

4.1.2 Venuti

Lawrence Venuti proposes a dichotomy that contrasts domesticating (ethnocentric fluency), representing a TT-oriented approach, and foreignising (open literalism), representing a ST-oriented approach. It can be argued that Venuti is in strong preference of a ST-oriented approach, when claiming that 'Anglo-American culture has been dominated by target-text oriented translation strategies leading to ethnocentrism and racism and cultural narcissism and imperialism' (Venuti 20)

4.1.3 Newmark

Another dichotomy is Peter Newmark's distinctions between communicative translation and semantic translations, which is described by Newmark as follows:

Communicative translation attempts to produce on its readers an effect as close as possible to that obtained on the readers of the original. Semantic translation attempts to render, as closely as the semantic and syntactic structure of the second language allow, the exact contextual meaning of the original

(Newmark 116).

Newmark is chosen for this study, since he may be argued to favour an approach that is less ST oriented than Venuti, who advocates a strong ST-oriented approach, when arguing that what he defines as semantic translation 'is inoperant if the text is out of TL space and time' (Newmark 117).

4.1.4 Discussion of macrostrategies

Table 1 is an overview of the macrostrategies employed in the contrastive analysis:

Table 1: an overview of the above mentioned dichotomies

Theories	ST-oriented macrostrategy	TT-oriented macrostrategy
Vinay and Darbelnet	Direct translation	Oblique translation
Venuti	Foreignising translation	Domesticating translation
Newmark	Semantic translation	Communicative translation

As mentioned earlier, Vinay and Darbelnet present a dichotomy that defines the macro-level decisions as being either ST-oriented or TT-oriented, and the translator decides on an overall method for carrying out a translation according to what he believes is most suitable for a particular assignment. Newmark may be argued to favour an approach that is less ST-oriented than Venuti who advocates a strong ST-oriented approach.

These three theories combined form a theoretical framework that may provide a comprehensive and objective tool in the analysis T1 and T2 at the macro-level, since the chosen theories may cover each their advocacy of how a translation should be carried out.

4.3 Microstrategies

Whereas macrostrategies concern the overall method of how a translation should be carried out, the specific problems a translator may have at the micro level will be introduced below.

In order to identify what specific choices Boisen and Nielsen make at word and sentence level, a taxonomy of translation procedures (microstrategies) is used.

This assignment will make use of a taxonomy combined of seven microstrategies suggested by Vinay and Darbelnet and two microstrategies suggested by Delabastita, which are illustrated in Table 3 below. Staying solely within Vinay and Darbelnet's taxonomy may not provide a comprehensive contrastive analysis of T1 and T2; hence two microstrategies that are not represented explicitly in Vinay and Darbelnet's taxonomy have been added from Delabastita's taxonomy of microstrategies. These nine microstrategies are the strategies that are most often represented in T1 and T2, and thus the microstrategies adequate for a comprehensive contrastive analysis of the two translations.

4.3.1 Vinay and Darbelnet

Staying within Vinay and Darbelnet's theoretical framework, they present a taxonomy of microstrategies consisting of seven translation procedures. Vinay and Darbelnet's taxonomy of microstrategies originally focused on translations between English and French. The taxonomy includes the following three microstrategies: borrowing, calque and literal translation, which are categorised under the macrostrategy direct translation. The remaining four microstrategies transposition, modulation, equivalence and adaptation belong to the overall macrostrategy of oblique translation (Vinay; Darbelnet 31-40).

4.3.2 Delabastita

Delabastita's taxonomy of microstrategies is originally composed of five microstrategies. The microstrategies deletion and addition are represented in this assignment, since these two strategies are relevant in respect to the contrastive analysis T1 and T2. Whereas the three microstrategies substitution, repetition and permutation are eliminated, since these are not relevant in respect to the two translations.

4.3.3 Discussion of microstrategies

Having defined the theoretical framework of Vinay and Darbelnet's and Delabastita's microstrategies used for the contrastive analysis of the two translations at the micro-level, an assessment of each of the nine microstrategies, with a random selection of examples from the empirical data, will be presented in Table 3A and Table 3B.

Table 3A: a selection of empirical microstrategies

Vinay and Darbelnet (31-40)			
Macrostrategies	Microstrategies	Description	Example
Direct translation	Borrowing	The ST word is transferred directly to the TT.	'Gurry' (an expression used by the whalemens) 'Gurry' (Nielsen 401; 1.1)

	<p>Calque</p>	<p>‘A special kind of borrowing’. The SL expression or structure is transferred in a literal translation.</p>	<p>‘like fully ripe grapes their wine’ ‘som fuldmodne druer deres vin’. (Boisen 421; 1.2) (the structure is borrowed from the ST)</p>
	<p>Literal translation</p>	<p>A ‘word-for-word’ translation (ST item is translated into an idiomatic correct TT-language expression).</p>	<p>‘squeeze ourselves into each other’ ‘presse os selv ind i hinanden’ (Boisen 421; 1. 23)</p>
<p>Oblique translation</p>	<p>Transposition</p>	<p>A change of one part of speech for another without changing the sense (e.g. change of word class)</p>	<p>‘A Squeeze of the Hand’ ‘Håndtryk’ (Nielsen 400; headline)</p>
	<p>Modulation</p>	<p>Slight change of point of view/meaning of the ST.</p>	<p>‘I lived as in a musky meadow’ ‘levede jeg som på en vellugtende eng’ (Boisen 422; 1.5)</p>
	<p>Equivalence</p>	<p>Same situation is described in the TT, but stylistic changes of the ST have been made.</p>	<p>‘in that inexpressible sperm’ ‘i den ubeskriveligt dejlige olie’ (Boisen 421; 1.6)</p>

	Adaptation	Change of cultural reference of a ST item because of a lack of correspondence in the TT.	‘the thigh of Louis le Gros ’. ‘ Ludvig den Fedes lår. (Nielsen 401; l. 29)
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Table 3B: a selection of empirical microstrategies

Taxonomy of microstrategies Delabastita		
Microstrategies	Description	Example
Deletion	A ST-item is not rendered in the TT/ leaves out a unit of meaning	‘portable horse-pieces ’ ‘transportable stykker ’ (Boisen 423; l. 16)
Addition	The TT contains an item that has no apparent relation to the ST/ adds a unit of meaning.	‘I declare to you, that for the time[...] ‘ja, jeg lover dig, min læser , at i den stund[...] (Boisen 421; l. 4)

Having introduced and defined the above-mentioned theoretical framework, this will now be applied to the following contrastive analysis of Boisen’s 1955- and Nielsen’s 2011

translations of Melville's *Moby Dick*, to examine the research questions described in section 2.

5.0 Methodology

In order to explore the three research questions outlined above, this study will carry out a contrastive analysis and investigation of T1 and T2, focusing on maritime terminology and Melville's rich and complex play of words. The purpose of this investigation is to identify what strategies the two translators have used, and to investigate the differences in approach of the two translations and finally suggest how functionally adequate the two translations are.

The study will collect data from chapter 94 '*A Squeeze of the Hand*' of Melville's *Moby Dick*, comparing the English 1851 edition with T1 and T2, together with a comparison of the T1 and T2. The selected chapter represents differences in approach of the two translations concerning problems of maritime character and Melville's rich and complex language use that are present throughout the novel.

In order to suggest what strategies the two translators have used, and in order to identify the differences between the original and T1 and T2, the analysis in section five will be based on a contrastive analysis where the two translations will be compared with the English 1988 Northwestern-Newberry-edition and with one another, at the micro-level and the macro-level. A taxonomy of microstrategies, composed of seven translation procedures

(microstrategies) presented by Vinay and Darbelnet and two microstrategies presented by Delabastita will be used for the analysis at sentence and word level of the two translations. A quantitative count of the microstrategies will be presented and thereupon a qualitative discussion of examples of microstrategies from the empirical data will be carried out. Subsequently, the translations will be analysed at the macro-level by using Vinay and Darbelnet's dichotomy at the macro-level in combination with Venuti's and Newmark's dichotomies.

An interview with the translator of the most recent translation of *Moby Dick*, Flemming Chr. Nielsen has been carried out in order to contribute to a subjective point of view in the analysis, concerning specific problems of maritime character and Melville's rich language use and how these have been interpreted and translated.

The analysis is also constructed of a questionnaire-based investigation of six Danish readers, who were asked to read chapter 94 of T1 and T2, and subsequently interviewed for questions concerning comprehensibility and the quality of the translations, in order to suggest which translation is the most functionally adequate, from the reader's point of view.

6.0 Analysis and results

This section will report on a contrastive analysis of Melville's *Moby Dick* and of T1 and T2.

Firstly, a quantitative presentation of microstrategies will be carried out, in order to propose an answer for research question 1 (R1), and thereupon a qualitative discussion of examples of microstrategies from the empirical data will be given, in order to suggest an answer to research question 2 (R2).

After having identified the strategies used at the micro-level, a categorisation at the macro-level in respect to the two translations will be provided in order to develop the answer of R1 further. An overall categorisation of the two translations by the overtness distinction at the macro-level will be suggested.

Subsequently, a qualitative questionnaire-based investigation will be presented in order to propose an answer to R3. The section finishes with a discussion and a summary of the results.

6.1 Microstrategies – a quantitative analysis

To be able to provide the most comprehensive contrastive analysis at the micro-level, a quantitative presentation of the frequency of each of the nine microstrategies used in Chapter 94 in T1 and T2 is conducted. (See Table 5 below.) This contrastive analysis at the micro-level has been conducted by analysing the nine microstrategies at word, phrase and sentence level by comparing Melville's original with T1 and T2, and counting the frequency of each microstrategy occurring in the chapter. The counting of microstrategies in the two

translations is presented to be able to deliver comprehensive results, illustrating differences concerning words, phrases and sentences in the two translations. Table 5 outlines the frequency of each of the microstrategies by count along with a computed percentage.

Table 4: frequency of microstrategies used in T1 and T2

Macrostrategy	Microstrategy	T1 Frequency	T1 Percentage	T2 Frequency	T2 Percentage
Direct Translation (ST-oriented)	Borrowing	6	4	5	3,6
	Calque	13	8,7	1	0,7
	Literal translation	71	47,6	23	16,7
Oblique Translation (TT-oriented)	Transposition	6	4	18	13
	Modulation	12	8	24	17,4
	Equivalence	27	18,1	51	37
	Adaptation	5	3,5	6	4,4
	Deletion	7	4,6	3	2,1
	Addition	2	1,4	7	5,1

The percentages in Table 4 above reveal that the microstrategies used in T1 and T2 vary. The three microstrategies with the highest frequency in T1 are calque and literal translation, belonging to the ST-oriented macrostrategy direct translation, and equivalence, belonging to

the TT-oriented macrostrategy oblique translation, and they represent 74,4 per cent of all microstrategies. The three microstrategies with the highest frequency in T2 are literal translation, which belongs to the ST-oriented macrostrategy direct translation, and modulation and equivalence, which both represent the TT-oriented strategy oblique translation at the macro-level, representing a total of 71,1 per cent.

6.2 Microstrategies – a qualitative analysis

Explanatory statements on the findings of the quantitative presentation in Table 4, will be given by presenting a qualitative discussion of the microstrategies from examples from the empirical data, in order to analyse the differences in choices made at the micro-level in the two translations, and are presented below. The following examples are specifically selected for discussion, since they represent the microstrategies with the highest frequency in T1 and T2 respectively (See Table 4 above), and thus represent the micro-level-decisions that are made throughout the chapter.

Example 1: calque and adaptation

O: *'even to the baling of the Heidelburgh Tun, or Case'*

(Melville 496; l. 3)

		Microstrategy	Macrostrategy
T1	'lige til tømningen af Heidelberg-fadet eller kassen ' (Boisen 420; l. 4)	Calque	Direct translation (ST-oriented)
T2	'og med aftapningen af Melonen eller Heidelberg-fadet' (Nielsen 399; l. 3)	Adaptation	Oblique translation (TT-oriented)

Example 1 clarifies the different approaches the translators have had to the word 'Case'. In T1, the translator has chosen to translate the word 'case' to 'kassen', and in T2, the translator has chosen to translate it to 'Melonen'. The word choice in T2 'Melonen' adapts more to a Danish context than in T1, since it describes to the reader what 'case' means in this context: 'case' is described in Chapter 77 '*The Great Heidelburgh Tun*' of *Moby Dick* and this chapter explains that 'case' is a terminology used by whale-men to describe the top part of the spermwhale's head, also known by the name 'Heidelburgh Tun', which is the term mentioned prior to 'Case' in the sentence. Hence, the word choice in T1 can be defined as adaptation at the micro-level.

In T1, the translator has chosen to use calque, by making a direct translation of the word ‘case’ to ‘kassen’, which may be a word choice that lets the reader go astray concerning comprehension of the term, since it is not clear to the reader that Melville refers to a part of a spermwhale’s head, but may be understood as a container. Thus, it may be claimed that in T1 the form and content of the ST has been prioritised, which at the macro-level is defined as direct translation, in contrast to T2 where the focus may be on creating an effect in the TT, which at the macro-level is defined as oblique translation.

Example 2: literal translation and modulation

O: *‘It is plums of rubies, in pictures of citron’*

(Melville 497; l. 28)

		Microstrategy	Macrostrategy
T1	’et stilleben af citroner med rubinrøde rosiner’ (Boisen 422; l. 13-14)	Literal translation	Direct translation (ST-oriented)
T2	’Det er rosiner af rubiner i den yndigste sukat’ (Nielsen 400; l. 25)	Modulation	Oblique translation (TT-oriented)

In T1, the phrase ‘in pictures of citron’ has been translated directly with use of the microstrategy literal translation. The translator in T1 refers to a physical painting/drawing (a

still life) of citrons, and where citrons signify citrus fruits. The phrase ‘pictures of citron’ is in T2 interpreted with significantly different meaning. The word ‘citrons’ is translated to ‘sukat’, which is candied peel, most often from citrus fruits (DDO online). The word ‘pictures’ has been rendered as a description of the citrons, meaning that the candied peels look tempting. The sentence ‘it is plums of rubies, in pictures of citron’, refers to the plum pudding, explained by Melville as ‘fragmentary parts of the whale’s flesh’ (497; l. 27), which in the chapter, subsequent of the just mentioned sentence, is explained as something tempting to eat. Hence, it may be argued that the rather free translation in T2 provides a more adequate description of what Melville intended with this sentence, since the description of candied peels is more adequate concerning something tempting to eat (the plum pudding), in contrast to the description of a still life of citrons, in T1.

Example 3: calque and modulation

O: ‘white-horse’.

(Melville 497; l. 3)

		Microstrategy	Macrostrategy
T1	’hvide hest’ (Boisen 422; l. 1)	calque	Direct translation (ST-oriented)
T2	’skumtop’ (Nielsen 400; l. 15)	modulation	Oblique translation (TT-oriented)

In Example 3, the translation of 'white-horse' is handled differently. In *Moby Dick*, Melville defines 'white-horse' as 'the tapering part of the fish' (497; l. 4). However, it should be mentioned that white-horse is, in the glossary of whaling terms in *The Yankee Whaler*, first published in 1926, defined as the white meat located in the junk (the wedge-shaped lower half of the spermwhale's forehead) (Alice 134). Thus, this example creates an issue for the translator, since he should consult a maritime dictionary/glossary to achieve the correct definition, and contradict the author of the ST. However, Melville's definition of 'white-horse' shall in this example be the valid definition, since the translators may not have known of the definition in the glossary of *The Yankee Whaler*. In T1, the translator has used calque when translating the maritime term, and thus does not change the form or meaning of the TT. In T2, the translator has chosen modulation, where he interprets the word 'white-horse' as a foam-crest of a wave, and thus changes the meaning of the word. Nielsen claims that his interpretation of 'white-horse' stems from the foam-crest occurring when a whale hits its tapering part against the waves, and thus creates a foam-crest (personal communication; F. Nielsen). Hence, it can be stated that the focus of T2 is on creating another effect in the TT than the effect of the ST.

Example 4: equivalence and literal translation

Throughout *Moby Dick*, Melville occasionally uses the word ‘spermaceti’, and at times ‘sperm’, which both refers to ‘a wax, liquid at body temperature, obtained from the head of a spermwhale’ (Britannica online). On pages 496-497, the whalers on board of *Pequod* are squeezing the lumps of spermaceti back into liquid, and the narrator, Ishmael, is very enthusiastic about ‘unwittingly squeezing’ his ‘co-laborers’ hands in it (Melville 496; l. 26). In the aforementioned section, Melville has chosen to use the term ‘sperm’ instead of ‘spermaceti’, with the exception of the last line which says: ‘I saw long rows of angles in paradise, each with his hands in a jar of spermaceti’ (497; l. 12), which Nielsen also refers to in a note (Nielsen; *Moby Dick*; note 299; 533).

Examining the same section in T1, the translator has chosen to use the word ‘spermacet’ throughout the section, and the word ‘sperm’ is omitted. Examining T2, the translator has maintained Melville’s style, and used the same terms for ‘spermaceti’ and ‘sperm’ in the same places as in the original, which may be defined as borrowing at the micro-level. Nielsen argues that he has interpreted the sudden shift in terminology of ‘spermaceti’ to ‘sperm’ to mean that Melville might have written about masturbation, when the whalers squeeze the ‘sperm’ and each other’s hands, and thus decides to copy Melville’s terminology in order to maintain the symbolism of sexual undercurrents (personal communication; F. Nielsen). Hence, it can be stated that the translator of T1 perhaps has not

understood the sexual undercurrents, or he may have consciously chosen to estrange them, because a sexual language would not be well-received by the target audience in the mid-20th century. Thus, it may be argued that the translator in T1 uses equivalence, belonging to oblique translation at the macro-level. The translator of T2 may have chosen to use borrowing, belonging to direct translation at the macro-level in this case, not only to maintain the form of the ST, but also because the target audience today may be more familiarised and comfortable with a sexual language.

By examining the observations carried out in the quantitative presentation and the qualitative discussion of the microstrategies above, and hereby identifying their differences, an investigation at the macro-level will be suggested subsequently. The investigation will be done in order to determine the overall approach in the translations and to identify their differences.

6.3 Macrostrategies

Macrostrategies may help the translator to decide how to carry out a translation task. Thus it may be identified if a translator has chosen a ST-oriented approach or a TT-oriented approach at the macro-level and this shall be identified in T1 and T2 below.

In the above section, the examination at the micro-level suggested that the most frequent used microstrategies in respectively T1 and T2 varied, with higher frequency of ST-

oriented microstrategies in T1 and more TT-oriented microstrategies in T2. In order to suggest the macro-level approaches in T1 and T2 in greater detail, a percentage of microstrategies used in the translation belonging respectively to direct translation (ST) and oblique translation (TT) at the macro-level shall be presented. The percentage will be categorised according to the three dichotomies chosen for this study, and are presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5: percentage of macrostrategies in T1 and T2

Approach	Macrostrategy	T1 (percentage)	T2 (percentage)
ST-oriented	Direct translation (Vinay and Darbelnet) Semantic translation (Newmark) Foregnising translation (Venuti)	60,3	21
TT-oriented	Oblique translation (Vinay and Darbelnet) Communicative translation (Newmark) Domesticating translation (Venuti)	39,7	79

By examining Table 5, it can be stated that the microstrategies belonging to the ST-oriented macrostrategies in T1 are the governing strategies, covering 60,3 per cent in total. In contrast to T1, the most frequent microstrategies used in T2 belongs to the TT-oriented macrostrategies and represents a total of 79 per cent. Hence, it may be claimed that T1 has

chosen a relatively more ST-oriented approach than T2. However, it can be stated that even though T2 has a higher frequency in TT-oriented microstrategies, it may still be defined as being more ST-oriented at the macro-level. Reasons for this claim may be defined by the overt/covert distinction. A translation of a recognised classic such as *Moby Dick* may be argued as being overt, since the target audience probably is aware that they are reading a translation. A covert translation could be a translation of *Moby Dick* for Danish children, where e.g. names, locations and terminology are changed to adapt to the target audience. An overt translation also defines translations where ST-items are transferred to the TT or in added notes. In T1, implicit ST items are most often transferred by means of equivalence, and in T2, the translator has compiled a complete list of 351 notes, explaining implicit ST-items: ‘*Constantine’s bath*’ (Melville, 496; 9) is in T1 translated to ‘*kæmpebadekar*’ (1.11; 420) and is in T2 translated to ‘*Konstantins termer*’ including a note that explains what the term means (note 299, 547).

To summarise the aforementioned claims, both T1 and T2 are relatively ST-oriented translations. ST-oriented microstrategies are used more frequently in T1, and TT-oriented microstrategies are used more frequently in T2, and T1 may thus be argued as being relatively more ST-oriented than T2.

According to the three dichotomies outlined in Table 5, it can be stated that T1 and T2 have used the ST-oriented macrostrategies, which Vinay and Darbelnet refer to as direct

translation. Venuti describes this macrostrategy as foreignising translation and Newmark defines it as semantic translation.

6.4 Questionnaire based investigation: the audience's judgement

In order to examine R3, a qualitative questionnaire based investigation has been carried out and is presented below. Six Danish readers, all with a minimum of two years academic education, were asked to read T1 and T2 and were subsequently interviewed for questioning concerning the quality and comprehensibility of the translations. Data regarding gender, age, education level, reading habits are outlined in Appendix B. All the participants knew the title of *Moby Dick*, but did not know the author and did not know of the two translations. None of the participants had read the English edition of *Moby Dick* or the Danish translations.

Concerning quality and comprehensibility, all six participants found both T1 and T2 complex to comprehend. Five out of six participants preferred T2 to T1. However, it should be mentioned that the language in T1 was by the participants considered out-dated, and thus difficult to comprehend, and this factor may be influential in their judgement. The five participants favouring T2 argued that they understood the content of T2 better than in T1, and consulted the explanatory notes outlined by the translator in the book, regarding maritime terminology. They claimed that the language of T2 was more fluent and contemporary, and thus better understood the content. Four out of the five in favour of T2 argued that T2 created

mental images of the plot while reading it and enjoyed the rich, and at times complex word use. All six participants comprehended the sexual undercurrents in T2, but not in T1. The five participants in favour of T2 argued that the language use in T1 does not match the language in current times. The one participant in favour of T1 argued that the language was easier to comprehend.

By examining the answers to the questions in Appendix A, it may be suggested that T2 applies a more successful approach than T1, from the reader's point of view, since the majority understood the content in T2 and not in T1 and that they appreciated the language use more in T2.

6.5. Results and discussion

The quantitative and qualitative analysis of microstrategies, in combination with the categorisation of the overtness distinction suggested that both T1 and T2 are ST-oriented translations, with a higher frequency of TT-oriented microstrategies in T2 (see Table 5 above). The quantitative questionnaire-based investigation revealed that the majority of the six participants comprehended T2 to a greater extent than T1, also concerning maritime terminology, which mainly was not understood in T1. The majority favoured T2 because of its use of a more fluent and descriptive language, in favour of the recipient's understanding and enjoyment.

These findings suggest that the ST-oriented approach with the highest frequency of TT-oriented microstrategies in T2 is more functionally adequate in respect to a novel written in a complex language and with the use of technical terms. It may be argued that Newmark's preference of a relatively less ST-oriented approach, in contrast to Venuti's relatively strong advocacy of a ST-oriented approach, corresponds to the approach used in T2, which was also favoured by the majority of the participants in the questionnaire. Nida's requirements for producing a functionally adequate translation, where the TT-receiver is considered when identifying the purpose of the ST, agrees with the approach that may be used in T2.

7. Conclusion

The objective of this study was to investigate the differences in approach in T1 and T2 and in Melville's *Moby Dick* and to suggest which of the translations that are more functionally adequate. In order to provide an answer to R1 and R2, a contrastive analysis was carried out at the micro- and the macro-level. A quantitative and qualitative analysis at the micro-level was conducted in order to identify the microstrategies used in T1 and T2 and the results were subsequently compared. The findings showed that the highest frequency of microstrategies in T1 belonged to the ST-oriented macrostrategies. In contrast to T1, the most frequent microstrategies used in T2 belongs to the TT-oriented macrostrategies. By applying the

overt/undercover distinction, it was suggested that both T1 and T2 are ST-oriented, with T2 being relatively less ST-oriented because of this higher frequency of TT-oriented microstrategies.

The quantitative questionnaire-based investigation was carried out to determine how functionally adequate the translations were from the audience's point of view. The findings revealed that the five out of the six participants comprehended the content of T2 to a greater extent than T1. The majority favoured T2 to T1, because of its use of a more fluent and descriptive language and because the content was easier to comprehend.

These findings proposed that the ST-oriented translation with the highest frequency of TT-oriented microstrategies is more functionally adequate in respect to a novel of complex language, such as Melville's *Moby Dick*. Newmark's preference of a relatively less ST-oriented approach, in contrast to Venuti's relatively strong advocacy of a ST-oriented approach, may correspond to the approach used in T2. T2 was favoured by the questionnaire participants, which may suggest that the approach used in T2 is more functionally adequate. Nida's requirements for a functionally adequate translation, where the TT-receiver is considered, may thus be proposed to agree with the approach that has been used in T2 and thus defines T2 as being more functionally adequate than T1.

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Appendix A: Interview questions

Q1	Have you read the English version of <i>Moby Dick</i>?
Q2	Have you read a Danish translation of <i>Moby Dick</i>?
Q3	Which translation did you prefer? And why?
Q4	Did you understand the content in T1?
Q5	Did you understand the content in T2?
Q6	Did you comprehend the sexual undercurrents in T1?
Q7	Did you comprehend the sexual undercurrents in T2?

Appendix B: Participant data

	Sex	Age	Education level	Reading habits (number of books a year)	Quality and comprehensibility
P1	Male	22	Ba student	>10	T1<T2
P2	Male	23	Ba student	>10	T1<T2
P3	Male	38	PBA educated + diploma	<10	T1<T2
P4	Female	31	Master	<10	T1<T2
P5	Female	30	PBA educated	<10	T1<T2
P6	Female	59	Diploma	>10	T1>T2