


This monograph presents the author’s doctoral dissertation obtained from the *Universität des Saarlandes*, Germany. It investigates phraseology and language transfer in a bilingual TV programme of the French-German television channel Arte. The study breaks new ground with the analysis of the French and German phraseological units used in this TV programme. By focussing on the news programme *Arte-Info*, the author scrutinises a special text type that has not been investigated in a systematic way before. To do so, she established a large database of 1000 phraseological units extracted from the news broadcast during a period of four months, from October 1999 to January 2000. The phraseological units are analysed according to three parameters: text type specifics, discursive situatedness, and thematic fixedness. The study examines, inter alia, important questions such as: What discursive strategies have been applied by using phraseological units in this journalistic genre? and Which functions do these strategies have?

The book consists of five chapters. Chapter 1 (pp. 15–115) introduces the research object, describes the state-of-the-art in this research domain, and presents the methodology. The next three chapters are structured according to the three analytical dimensions outlined above. Chapter 2 (pp. 117–208) discusses the text type specifics in the four main sections of the analysed news programme: news headlines, news overview, introduction/presentation, and reports. Chapter 3 (pp. 209–313) focuses on the discursive situatedness. The subjects of this chapter revolve around the practice of translation, the distribution of the phraseological units, the differences of phraseological usage in the German and French versions, as well as the text type differences. Chapter 4 (pp. 315–394) discusses the phenomenon of
thematic fixedness, i.e. it explores the subjects that are rich in phraseological units, and compares them to the ones which are poor in them. Finally, Chapter 5 (pp. 395–403) draws a conclusion.

Chapter 1 provides a thorough overview of the actual state of research in the special fields of both ‘phraseology and text’ and ‘interlingual phraseology’. Moreover, there are some important comments on translation research, text and discourse analysis, as well as media science. The author follows the definition of phraseology by Burger (2010), which is centred about the features of polylexicality, fixedness, and idiomaticity. Although she also takes neologisms into account, she abandons the often used definitional criterion of lexicalization. In addition, she only considers referential phraseological units, and excludes structural and communicative phrasemes, the two other main types of phrasemes according to Burger. Structural phrasemes, such as *in Bezug auf, sowohl – als auch*, are rarely thematised as phrasemes in the relevant literature. However, communicative phrasemes, including formulaic expressions (e.g., *Guten Morgen, ich meine*), could be important research objects in the investigation of television news programmes. Unfortunately, they are excluded from Fourcaud’s analysis. The restriction of the research object to ‘phraseology in the narrow sense’ (as defined through polylexicality, fixedness, and idiomaticity) also prevents the author from including non-idiomatic collocations.

With regard to the research methodology, it is to be appreciated that the author employs several approaches: deductive and inductive methods as well as quantitative and qualitative analyses. After presenting the methodological considerations, the author then introduces and explains the three dimensions of analysis: text type specifics, discursive situatedness, and thematic fixedness.

Chapter 2 discusses the text type specifics of the phrasemes. In the news headlines, pictorial idiomatic and partially idiomatic verbal and nominal constructions such as *am Scheideweg stehen* or *dans tous ses états* predominate. The rhetorical possibility of employing phrasemes for pictorial remotivations that work on the level of connotation is to be emphasized here. Moreover, remotivations of phrasemes on the sound and the pictorial level increase the thematic expressiveness of headlines. By contrast, both the brevity and the concentrated nature of the news overviews do not favour the use of pictorial phrasemes and idioms, as the author states. As a result, in this text type one can find slightly idiomatic and mostly motivated phrasemes, e.g. *Euro-Zone* or *coup de frein*. In the presentation part of the programme, phrasemes are not applied in order to provide coherence, but they primarily perform an appeal function, which coincides with the pragmatic intention of introducing the programme. In the reports, the presence of
interviews affects the increased presence of phrasemes like *bis an die Zähne bewaffnet sein* and *coup de théâtre*. They are also confirmed by the ‘eyewitness character’ of the reports.

Chapter 3 first discusses the influence of the translation practice on the distribution of the phraseological units. When interpreting, the interpreter adopts only phrasemes that are congruous with the basic information or those that have total equivalents in the target language. This strategy is pursued in order to make the topic of the presentation more simple and comprehensible. According to the study’s results, translators are more creative than interpreters with regard to the usage of phraseological units. Deverbalisation induces the translator to produce pictorial translations. The author shows that non-pictorial phrasemes are translated with equivalents both in form and content, while semantically unmotivated expressions are reproduced with a higher degree of creativity. As to differences between language version and text type, the audio-visual rhetoric has to be emphasized. Fourcaud claims that the rhetorical strategies pursued in the programme would give the opportunity of remotivating the phrasemes. However, hardly any examples of remotivated phrasemes can be found in the corpus.

Text relation processes are described by applying the model of Gréciano (1987), who differentiates between synonym progression, antonym progression, and language game modification, as far as the text progression through phrasemes is concerned. The most frequent processes in the corpus are synonym and antonym progression. The less frequent occurrence of language game modification is due to the objective and factual form of presentation in the examined news programme. The comparison of two different text types in the German and French language versions for the same programme, i.e. having the same audio and image set, is a very instructive part of this chapter. The different *skopos* of the German and French film reports (*Filmberichte/commentaires*) is the reason for the higher density of full idiomatic phrasemes in *commentaires*. In contrast to the objectivity and factual nature of the German text type *Filmbericht*, the French text type *commentaire* is rather opinion-based and more entertaining. Hence, the latter permits the usage of more idioms. Furthermore, the high proportion of winged words in the interviews, which are part of the *Filmberichte/commentaries*, is striking. As can be seen from the examples discussed by the author, these authentic and understandable phraseme types with intertextual indications are placed as conclusions, as supports of claims, and as a strategy to spare the effort of argumentation.

Thematic fixedness constitutes the subject of Chapter 4. Phrasemes are mostly used in the context of emotionally charged topics (e.g. political scandals). The investigation, however, provides a surprising result. Analysing
the programmes centred about EU policy – the eastward growth of the European Community in particular – it is shown that very few phrasemes can be found in the news on this topic. The author assumes that the editors refrain from employing phraseological units in favour of presenting reports without polemicised discussions. Another news topic investigated by the author is culture. In the cultural programme section, a great number of phrasemes occur. This is partly due to the soft-news character of these broadcasts. Comparing the German and French versions of the programme, German phrasemes are regularly transferred into French. This can most likely be explained by the fact that French reports are very sensitive to German phrasemes.

Fourcaud’s monograph is an absolute novelty at the interface of text linguistics and phraseology. It covers new terrain because, to my knowledge, there are no other publications dealing with the phraseological and text linguistic aspects of bilingual German-French TV programmes, let alone studies that systematically take into account all the dimensions discussed in this book. The author draws three main conclusions from her research: first, the usage of phrasemes is text type specific; second, it is motivated by its discursive situatedness; and finally, it is thematically fixed. Diagrams and schemas help the reader to follow the author’s arguments and discussions. Pictures of film sequences and a great many examples nicely illustrate the described phenomena.

As the author states in the conclusion, the results of her dissertation can be applied both in native-language teaching and the teaching of German and French as foreign languages. The empirical findings are also supported by statements and comments made by journalists, translators and interpreters whom the author interviewed within the framework of her research project. Therefore, this interdisciplinary study should not only be useful for linguists interested in text linguistics and phraseology, but also for journalists, translators, interpreters, and teachers to whom this book can be recommended as well.

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References