

On Semantic Pleonasms and Their Translation in Institutional Register

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Abstract. Institutional register should be highly accurate and ambiguity-free; however, it is mainly complex and hard to understand. One of its characteristic linguistic features is the use of set expressions and clichés. A number of pleonasms are also clichés, frequent in different documents. These pleonastic phrases make the text unnecessarily dense and redundant. For the most part perhaps, wordiness is also typical of the translated documents. Institutional translators most often follow particular guides concerning style, lexis, etc. The focus in institutional translation is on the authenticity of the text, which results in further complexity of the translated variant. The article focuses on semantic pleonasms used in the documents of the European Union. An assumption is made that institutional translators are influenced by the original structure of pleonastic phrases (and possibly by translation guidelines) and render them in the target language as pleonasms, too. Thus, the major concern of the study is to analyse semantic pleonasms in the English and Lithuanian versions of the documents of the European Union and to determine whether there is high prevalence of pleonasms in institutional register and how they are rendered in translation as represented by EU documents on the Eur-lex database.

Key words: *pleonasm, cliché, institutional register, institutional translation.*

Introduction

Pleonasms are commonly used in many languages including Lithuanian and English. They are often employed for stylistic reasons and are, thus, acceptable in a text. However, they could be avoided in non-fictional texts since the second, dependent, element of the pleonastic structure usually does not carry any additional information. Most linguists consider pleonasms as errors (Cheney, 2005, p.22; Skillin and Gay, 1974, p.407). Since many pleonasms have become clichés, it is obvious that they may appear in any text. Institutional register is essentially objective; therefore, the language in use is accurate, fluent and correct; clear and concise usage is very important (Vladarskienė, 2006, p.44; Kniūkšta, 2005, p.41). Therefore, even in the absence of explicit guidance on the usage of pleonasms in institutional register, one should feel intuitively that pleonasms are redundant.

The article analyses semantic pleonasms in English and Lithuanian, their occurrence in the texts of the European Union (EU) in both languages, and translation variants. An assumption is made that, like in other registers, pleonasms are widely used in documents, too. Meanwhile, it has been observed that translators first of all tend to think about the expression of syntactic structure rather than semantic content, which is often redundant. Rarely are such pleonastic structures translated in some other way and only in such cases when word-for-word translation is unnatural in the target language. The **aim** of the present study is to answer the question whether semantic pleonasms are common in institutional documents and their translations and whether technical language translators tend to avoid direct literal translation of pleonastic structures possibly resulting in pleonasms in the target language texts.

The research method employed in the present paper is contrastive analysis. Semantic pleonasms in EU documents in their English and Lithuanian versions are contrasted which allows identification of differences and similarities between the two languages (Fisiak, 1980; Hawkins, 1986; James, 1997; Johansson, 1994; Lado, 1957). Eur-lex, which is the database of EU law and other documents, is taken as the background source for the detection of the examples to illustrate. The examples were taken from those EU documents whose authentic language was marked as English and from all other documents with the assumption that it was Lithuanian into which the document was translated. The documents which could possibly possess the analysed pleonastic phrases but whose Lithuanian version does not exist were not taken into consideration. The author is cautious about stating that the analysed Lithuanian versions of the documents were translations from English as, for the most part, there is no such information on the database except for the fact that in most cases in practice English and French are the source languages for translation into all other official languages of the European Union (as explained by Eur-lex Publications Office).

The prototypical approach could also be employed to find out to what degree the information carried by the dependent element in a pleonastic phrase is redundant. However, this would be a broader general study of pleonasms not associated with any particular register.

Thus, the **object** of this research is semantic pleonasms, which are also in a way clichés, used in institutional register, namely in EU documents. An assumption was made that the Lithuanian versions of the selected semantic pleonastic phrases found in the English versions of the documents would most probably be pleonasms, too.

For the purposes of this particular research, 11 commonly used expressions considered as semantic pleonasm were chosen randomly. The pleonastic phrases exhibited three different structures:

- 1) verb/ adjective + in + noun (*few in number, grow in size, large in size, later in time, and earlier in time*);
- 2) gradable adjective + noun (*earlier time, earlier period, later time, and later period*); and
- 3) attributive adjective + noun (*future plans and end results*).

In total, 177 examples of the semantic pleonasm were selected and analysed. Only those examples were extracted and analysed whose Lithuanian translated versions were provided on the database.

Theoretical Background

Broadly speaking, institutional register refers to different kinds of documents. It is very often defined as the language of business, legal, diplomatic, military and other documents (Galperin, 1981, p.286). From the linguistic point of view, it is one of the most complex registers (Biber, 2006, p.50). Unnecessary complexity, density, and lack in readability are “recurring problems of original legal and administrative texts” (Koskinen, 2009, p.58). One of the most distinguishing linguistic features of the language of official documents is stiffness or conventionality of expression, which means that the texts may be full of such phrases which are commonly known and used. Some of such clichés — hackneyed, worn-out phrases and sayings which are no longer original (Foster, 2008, p.34) — are semantic pleonasm, too. They are expressions where the information, though unnecessary, is redundant and explicit more than once because of their structure (Nida and Taber, 2003, p.207). Semantic pleonasm are sometimes so commonly used that it is only natural to view them as clichés. The terms pleonasm and tautology also tend to be used synonymously (Booij and van Marle, 2005, p.120); however, the major difference here lies in the fact that tautology is absolutely erroneous, while pleonasm might only be viewed as a particular style of an author or commonly used and established cliché. For example, *PIN number* is an example of a tautological expression, where the letter N already stands for the word *number*. On the other hand, the use of the other lexical element involving part or all of the meaning in certain phrases which are considered as pleonasm might be justified, especially in the cases where gradable adjectives are involved, e.g. *serious danger* or *new invention* (Kasperavičienė, 2011, p.22). If such pleonasm are also viewed as clichés, their usage is not only justified, but it is also inevitable since, according to Zijdeveld, when expressions become clichés, they are already ‘linguistic fossils’, which are unalterable and hard to change (1979, p.16). Not always are language editors advised to avoid clichés. Einsohn argues that “[t]he occasional cliché is almost unavoidable and does little harm” (2000, p.388). A language editor, and at the same time a translator, should not attempt at eliminating all the clichés, should try different

expressions, or at least make sure that “the sentence would be improved by the deletion of the deadwood part of the set phrase” (Einsohn, 2000, p.388). Perhaps, all this is relevant in fiction or in publicistic register. However, institutional register is different in a way that despite being characterised by stiff and conventional expressions, the language should, first of all, be as accurate and precise as possible. Therefore, it is assumed that neither pleonasm nor clichés are allowed in official documents making them susceptible to misunderstanding or ambiguity. On the other hand, some modern linguistic guides to official language already allow clichés left and used in legal texts stating that such phrases might be useful since they are familiar (Goldstein and Lieberman, 2002, p.119); of course, they should not be used sparingly and are “stylistically objectionable” if used persistently (Garner, 2001, p.162).

Not all pleonastic phrases can be justified. If some of those involving a gradable adjective can be viewed as adding some shade of meaning (as in *serious danger, new invention*, etc.), there are a number of such which are absolutely superfluous, e.g. *time period, future plans, etc.* Such instances are advised to be considered as errors (Brians, 2003, pp.72, 205).

Both clichés and pleonasm are to be avoided, especially in the registers where precision of meaning and accuracy of words is extremely important. In translation, such commonly used pleonastic expressions are a significant problem, and sometimes the omission of the redundant element is allowed if there is no loss of meaning (Shunnaq, 2006, pp.244, 252). This is to affirm that a translator should not only think how to render the meaning precisely, but also about whether the original text is correct. A question arises whether a translator is also a language editor because it is not the translator as the mediator who makes a mistake but the original text already has an error if pleonastic expressions are to be considered as errors.

Moreover, translation of documents, which is definitely institutional translation, poses a number of questions as to whether errors of the original are to be maintained in the target text. For example, Koskinen argues that

“[i]n institutional translation it is often important, symbolically or for practical reasons, to maintain that the different versions of a particular document are equally authentic and equivalent” (2011, p.57).

Because of this, an overemphasis on equivalence is present in institutional translation (2011, p.58). Newmark, too, agrees that “message-oriented, idiomatic, closest-natural-equivalent” translation is the one to be produced in translating institutional texts (Mossop, 1988, p.67). On the other hand, some guidelines for institutional translators strongly recommend rendering the message, i.e. the author’s intention, instead of the words or structures of the original text (Mason, 2003, p.177). Such different opinions lead translators to confusion, even though all institutions should, and most probably do, have style guides for translations. Back to the subject, however, it is assumed here that

unnecessarily complex and, thus, possibly ambiguous wording may lead to misunderstanding. Because there is a new tendency for clarity, transparency, and simplicity in legal and business English as well as in government documents (Siegel, 2010), it is assumed that such errors as semantic pleonasms should be eradicated in the original, and consequently in the target, text. Thus, it is only natural that pleonastic phrases have to be rendered in another language in the most obvious, natural, redundancy-absent way.

Analysis of the Selected Pleonasms and their Translated Variants

Common usage of pleonasms in institutional register can be confirmed by the documents of the European Union made publicly available through the database Eur-lex. The phrases chosen for the particular research were complete pleonasms, thus, indicating an error.

Five of the analysed pleonasms were examples structured as *verb/ adjective + in + noun* formula, e.g. *grow in size*, *few in number*, *large in size*, *later in time* and *earlier in time*. Pleonasms exhibiting this structure were chosen purposefully since wordiness and absence of additional meaning possibly carried by a dependent element is unequivocal. In total, 36 occurrences of the above mentioned phrases were found in the database of EU documents: 16 of *few in number*; 11 of *large in size*; 6 of *grow in size*; 2 in *earlier in time*; and 1 of *later in time*. Most probably, the best equivalent for the pleonastic phrase *few in number* in Lithuanian would be *negausu*, *nedaug*, or *mažai*. The direct word-for-word translation is impossible since it would be unnatural. In the analysed Lithuanian versions of the documents, the phrases *nedaug* (8 times), *mažai* (2 times), *negausu* (1 time), and *retai* (1 time) were used most frequently, e.g.

- (1) *Cases in which a foreign law is applicable will therefore be very **few in number** (European Commission¹).
Taigi užsienio teisės taikymo atvejų bus **nedaug**.*
- (2) *Manufacturers/ importers of basic chemicals (e.g. ethylene and butadiene) are relatively **few in number** and handle large volumes (Economic and Social Committee).
Pagrindinių cheminių medžiagų (pvz., metileno ir butadieno) gamintojų (importuotojų) yra gana **mažai**, ir jie gamina (importuoja) didelius kiekius.*

In 3 cases, the phrase with the word *skaičius* was used, which might imply that the translator was influenced by the original structure of the text and tried to render it any way, e.g.

- (3) *When examining whether or not existing or proposed structures comply with competition rules, it must be remembered that in any case, CCPs and CSPs are by their nature **few in number** and large in size (Economic and Social Committee).
Analizuojant, ar esamos arba būsimos struktūros atitinka konkurencijos taisykles, reikia atkreipti dėmesį, jog yra bū-*

*dinga, kad CCP ir CSD **skaičius yra ribotas** ir jų apimtis yra didelė.*

It has to be noted here that the translator should not have used the word *skaičius* here as it is obviously clear that the word is not necessary and the phrase sounds strange.

The other analysed pleonasm *large in size* found in 11 EU documents was mostly rendered as *didelis* in the appropriate number and gender form in the Lithuanian versions of those documents, e.g.

- (4) *It is a white garlic (of the autumn variety), sometimes featuring violet-coloured markings, and is **large in size** (European Commission).
Tai **didelis** baltos spalvos (rudens veislės) česnakas, galintis turėti violetinių atspalvių.*
- (5) *The apples are **large in size** ranging between 60-120 mm in diameter (European Commission).
Obuoliai yra **dideli**, jų skersmuo – nuo 60 iki 120 mm.*

The provided examples illustrate and convince that this translation variant is natural and straightforward in Lithuanian. However, there were two other variants observed, e.g.

- (6) *Bilateral transactions tend to be **large in size**, and their prices are not disclosed (European Commission).
Paprastai dvišaliai sandoriai yra **didelės apimties**, o jų kainos neatskleidžiamos.*
- (7) *... CCPs and CSPs are by their nature **few in number** and **large in size** (European Commission).
... CCP ir CSD **skaičius yra ribotas** ir jų **apimtis yra didelė**.*

The examples given above indicate that the translator was most probably influenced by the structure of the phrase and, thus, used the Lithuanian equivalent *apimtis* for the English word *size*. The variant *didelės apimties* is clearly a stiff phrase or cliché often used in technical texts in Lithuanian; however, the dependent word *apimtis* is superfluous and unnecessary.

A similar example of a pleonasm is *grow in size* which is only different as a verb instead of an adjective serves as a semantic head in the structure. All the 6 analysed instances of this pleonastic phrase in the Lithuanian versions of EU documents were rendered structurally differently than in the English versions. The Lithuanian variants included the synonyms *didėti*, *plėstis*, and *augti* in their necessary form. Other two were prefixational derivatives *padidinti* and *išsiplėsti*, and one was a complex phrase of two words *skatinti plėtimąsi*, e.g.

- (8) *The feed is initially ground to a fine flour and then, as the fish **grow in size**, feed of a coarser structure is used (European Commission).
Iš pradžių pašarai sumalami, kol virsta smulkiais miltais, o vėliau, žuvims **augant**, naudojami rupesni pašarai.*
- (9) *... to allow primary producer organisations to become more efficient and **grow in size** where needed ... (European Parliament).
... sudarytų sąlygas tam, kad pirminių gamintojų organizacijos taptų veiksmingesnės ir prireikus **didėtu** ...*

¹ Here and further in brackets next to the English examples, the author of the document is provided. All the examples have been taken from Eur-lex database.

- (10) *State aid facilitating SME investment in innovative projects needs to encourage businesses to grow in size as well and to encompass, in particular ...* (Economic and Social Committee).

Teikiant pagalbą, skirtą investicijoms į MVĮ vykdomus naujoviškus projektus skatinti, reikėtų siekti taip pat skatinti įmonių plėtimąsi ir pirmiausiai numatyti: ...

All the Lithuanian variants for the pleonastic phrase *grow in size* were naturally chosen and perhaps did not cause problems for the translator as no other variant actually exists. All of them seem to be straightforward and obvious.

Two other pleonasms, namely *later in time* and *earlier in time*, were rare in the database of EU documents. Their translation should not have been problematic since similar to the English structure would result in a very awkward Lithuanian phrase. Thus, the translator chose the most natural and apparent variants, e.g.

- (11) *... underlining in particular how the disease is characterised not only by clinical dementia but also by the onset of pre-dementia earlier in time, therapeutic options are still limited to symptomatic drugs* (Committee of the Environment, Public Health and Safety);

... visų pirma pabrėžiant, kad šiai ligai būdingi ne tik klinikiniai demencijos simptomai, bet ir prieš tai pasireiškę ankstyvi prasidedančios demencijos požymiai, gydymo galimybės vis dar ribotos ir skiriami simptominiai vaistai;

- (12) *... the Law of 5 June 2007 amending the 1991 Law and intended formally to transpose the Directive is later in time than the main proceedings ...* (Court of Justice of the European Communities).

2007 m. birželio 5 d. Įstatymas, kuriuo pakeičiamas 1991 m. Įstatymas ir formaliai perkeliama direktyva, priimtas vėliau, negu atsirado pagrindinės bylos aplinkybės ...

Thus, it can be generalised at this point that pleonastic phrases exhibiting the structure of *verb/ adjective + in + noun*, which are extremely commonly used and have already been established as clichés in English, do not pose translation problems when they have to be rendered in Lithuanian. This can be explained by the fact that word for word translation showing similar structure to that of an English phrase or an attempt to keep to the number of words and to the particular lexical items would end in an unnatural and unmanageable word combination in Lithuanian. The analysed examples only rarely showed such an inclination of a translator, i.e. only 5 out of 36 analysed phrases (14 %) of this particular structure were rendered somewhat awkwardly in the Lithuanian versions of the documents maintaining at least the lexical items since the exact structure could not be used.

In order to reveal more fully the tendency of usage of pleonasms, another kind, namely those with gradable adjectives, was also taken into consideration. It turned out that the pleonastic phrase *at a later time* was extremely frequently used in EU documents. The phrase was found in 81 documents in English which also had their Lithuanian versions, which shows high prevalence and the status of a

cliché of this phrase. The most frequent Lithuanian version was the most obvious adverb *vėliau*, e.g.

- (13) *Some contracts do not transfer any insurance risk to the issuer at inception, although they do transfer insurance risk at a later time* (European Commission).

Pagal kai kurias sutartis išleidėjui sutarties pradžioje jokia draudimo rizika neperduodama, nors ji perduodama vėliau.

However, there were some variants which were closer in the structure to the English phrase: *vėlesniu laikotarpiu*, *vėlesne data*, *vėlesniu metu*, *vėlesniu momentu*, *vėlesnėje stadijoje*, and *greitu metu*, e.g.

- (14) *... the price increases planned during those meetings are to be applied at a later time ...* (Court of Justice of the European Union, English).

... šiuose susitikimuose numatytas kainų didinimas taikomas ir vėlesniu laikotarpiu ...

- (15) *... the rate of interest for deposits in EUR for a term of three months as published at 11.00 Brussels time, or at a later time acceptable to the EIB, on the reset date on Reuters page EURIBOR 01 ...* (European Investment Bank, European Commission).

Trijų mėnesių indėlių eurais palūkanų norma, palūkanų normos nustatymo dieną 11:00 val. Briuselio laiku arba vėlesniu EIB tinkamu metu skelbiama "Reuters" puslapyje "EURIBOR 01" ...

- (16) *As the motions for resolutions tabled were not yet available, they would be announced in plenary at a later time* (European Parliament).

Su pateiktais pasiūlymais dėl rezoliucijos dar nebuvo galima susipažinti; jie bus paskelbti greitu metu.

An assumption was made that the same tendencies most probably could be observed for the phrase *at a later period*; however, only 1 instance of this particular phrase was found on the database, and there was no Lithuanian version of the document. This implies that *at a later period* is not as prevalent as *at a later time*.

On the other hand, the opposite phrases *at an earlier time* and *at an earlier period* were also investigated, and they were equally frequently used: 25 instances for each were found in the English versions of the documents. As only part of the documents where the two phrases were found had Lithuanian versions, in total 32 instances (23 with *at an earlier period* and 9 with *at an earlier time*) were analysed. What was unexpected was that the two quite similar English phrases were completely differently rendered in Lithuanian versions. In all the cases except one, the phrase *at an earlier period* was rendered as *ankstesniu laikotarpiu* in Lithuanian versions of the documents, e.g.

- (17) *The Corte Suprema di Cassazione goes on to state that the Italian rules tend generally to 'protect holders of licences issued at an earlier period on the basis of a procedure that unlawfully excluded some operators'* (Court of Justice of the European Union, Spanish).

Corte Suprema di Cassazione taip pat nurodo, kad egzistuoja „bendra tendencija užtikrinti ankstesniu laikotarpiu

suteiktų koncesijų turėtojų apsaugą“ (1999 m. koncesijos), remiantis procedūra, kurioje kai kuriems subjektams buvo neteisėtai uždrausta dalyvauti.

In fact, there were 21 out of 23 cases where one and the same legal proposition was used; out of those 21, only 1 was differently presented in the Lithuanian version of the EU document, e.g.

- (18) ... *tend generally to protect holders of licences issued at an earlier period on the basis of a procedure that unlawfully excluded certain operators* (Court of Justice of the European Union, Italian);
apskritai siekiama apsaugoti licencijų, suteiktų pagal ankstesnę procedūrą, kuria dalis ūkio subjektų buvo neteisėtai pašalinti (iš konkurso), turėtojus;

The analysed examples showed that the structure similar to that of the English phrase was maintained in the Lithuanian versions of the documents.

In case of the phrase *at an earlier time*, the data were different. All of the Lithuanian versions had the word *ankščiau*, except one, where the phrase *kuo greičiau* was used, e.g.

- (19) *DSD may on no account require the certificate to be presented at an earlier time than is laid down under the Packaging Ordinance* (Court of First Instance of the European Communities).
DSD jokiui atveju negali reikalauti, kad pažyma būtų pateikta ankščiau nei nurodyta nutarime dėl pakuočių.
- (20) *When medical care for severely injured people is available at an earlier time after the accident, the death rate and severity of trauma resulting from the injuries can be significantly reduced* (European Commission).
Rimtus sužalojimus patyrusiems žmonėms suteikus medicinę pagalbą kuo greičiau po eismo nelaimės, mirčių skaičius ir sužalojimų sukeltų traumų sunkumas gali labai sumažėti.

Thus, a generalisation is possible at this point of research that the analysed pleonastic phrases with the gradable adjective are frequently used in the English versions of EU documents except maybe for the phrase *at a later period*. The Lithuanian versions of EU documents show no particular pattern or tendency of usage. Perhaps, *ankstesniu laikotarpiu* seems to be more established than others and is possibly a cliché in legal texts. But then the phrase *vėlesniu laikotarpiu*, which is the exact opposite, should also be frequent. However, the analysed instances allow making an assumption that the phrase is not favoured since it is greatly outscored by a simple adverb *vėliau*.

Two other pleonasms exhibiting another different structure were taken for the analysis. Examples with the pleonastic phrases *future plans* and *end results* were extracted from the database of EU documents and investigated. They can also be considered as clichés since their usage is so established and stiff that no one actually realises that the two elements in the phrases carry the same meaning.

The pleonasm *future plans* was found in 23 documents in English which were translated into Lithuanian. A plan refers to what has been decided to achieve in future. The noun *plan* is synonymous to *intention, aim, project, proposal, etc.*, which all have some reference to future. On the other hand, the noun *plan* has other meanings, namely associated with a drawing or a diagram. However, all the examples analysed were associated with intentions or planned arrangements for the future. Thus, it is only natural that the word *future*, here used as an attributive adjective, is redundant, and redundancy should be considered as an error. None of the Lithuanian versions of this particular phrase found in English documents ended up with only one word *planas*. The Lithuanian versions showed the following translated variants: *ateities planai* (14 times), *būsimi planai* (8 times), and *tolesni planai* (1 time), e.g.

- (21) *Finally, it goes without saying that relief must be based on actual R&D investment made and not in respect of future plans* (Economic and Social Committee).
Galiausiai akivaizdu, kad nuolaidos turi būti taikomos atsižvelgiant į jau padarytas investicijas į MTTP, o ne į ateities planus.
- (22) *Future plans for research and development may also be documented in the application* (European Commission).
Paraiškoje taip pat galima patvirtinti dokumentais būsimus mokslinių tyrimų ir technologinės plėtros planus.
- (23) *These systems have helped them to define their future plans* (European Commission).
Tokios sistemos joms padeda parengti tolesnius planus.

In Lithuanian, the phrase *ateities planai* perhaps is the most obvious and established one. There is no question why it has been used in the Lithuanian versions of EU documents since the phrase is quite usual. The words *būsimi* and *tolesni* seem to imply that most probably there have been other plans arranged earlier and realised or not realised before the plans discussed at the moment. Perhaps this is the reason why the noun *plan* immediately calls for some adjective to be used together. Future plans are those which are being aimed at, intended, and have not been achieved yet, which can be opposed to the plans whose realisation is no longer relevant.

The other pleonasm chosen for this analysis, *end results*, was found in 5 documents which had Lithuanian translations. In all the 5 cases, the Lithuanian variant *galutiniai rezultatai* was used, e.g.

- (24) *Modifications of the flowmeter from that described herein, and an aerostatic flow medium other than air, may be used provided the end results are the same* (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe).
Jeigu galutiniai rezultatai bus tokie patys, galima atlikti kitokius nei čia aprašyta srauto matuoklio pakeitimus ir naudoti kitokią aerostatinio srauto terpę.

Even though the noun *result* already encompasses in its meaning the sense of finality, there is a possibility of intermediate results or primary results. Such cases are rarer,

but they are possible, and this can be illustrated by the examples taken from the database of EU documents, e.g.

(25) *The Committee shall be informed by the Commission of the interim and end results of the evaluation of the procurement tenders and of the contracts with private sector entities to be concluded by ESA (European Parliament).*

Komisija praneša komitetui apie viešųjų pirkimų konkursų vertinimo tarpinius bei galutinius rezultatus ir apie sutartis su privačiojo sektoriaus įmonėmis, kurias turi sudaryti EKA.

In such cases as shown in the example above, the use of the adjective *end* in the pleonastic phrase *end results* is completely justified as is its Lithuanian equivalent *galutiniai rezultatai*.

The diagram below shows the Lithuanian translation variants of the pleonastic phrases used in the English versions of the documents.

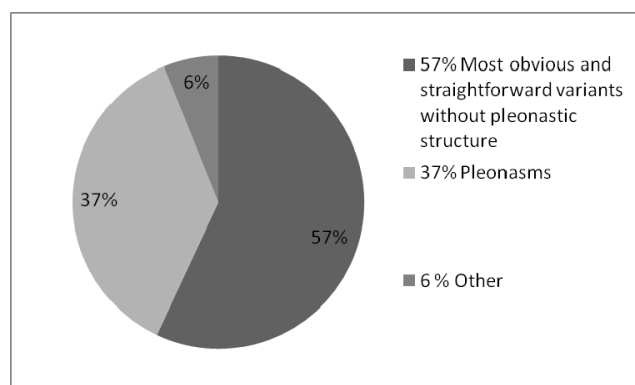


Figure 1. Ways of Rendering English Pleonastics into Lithuanian.

In total, 177 examples were analysed. Most frequently (57%), the phrases, which were pleonastics in the English texts, were rendered into Lithuanian in the most obvious and natural way. Only about one-third (37%) of the translated examples were pleonastics in Lithuanian, too, which shows that either the translator could have been influenced by the structure of the original phrase or found the corresponding Lithuanian pleonasm quite established and stiff and, therefore, used it.

Conclusions

The current research demonstrates that semantic pleonastics are rather frequent in EU documents and, consequently, in institutional register. The Lithuanian versions of the analysed documents show a tendency for more natural, obvious and straightforward translation resulting in fewer cases of pleonastics. On the other hand, the studied English pleonastics are quite well established clichés in English. Their literal translations into Lithuanian are possible, yet those particular Lithuanian pleonastic phrases are not so common. It is possible that the translators found such phrases awkward and unnatural in Lithuanian and, therefore, tried to render the original meaning in a way which is more appropriate.

The major drawback to this particular research is the absence of the information about the original language from which the Lithuanian version of the document was translated.

However, this does not affect the results concerning the prevalence of semantic pleonastics in EU documents in English and Lithuanian. Such information could only provide more reliable data about whether the translator follows the structure of the English, as an original, phrase.

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Semantinių pleonazmų vartojimas administraciniame stiliuje

Santrauka

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