

ENGLISH DENOMINAL CONVERSION VERBS AND THEIR ESTONIAN EQUIVALENTS: COMPARING TRANSLATIONS AND J. SILVET'S ENGLISH-ESTONIAN DICTIONARY

Enn Veldi

University of Tartu

Abstract. Conversion is a highly efficient and economical word-formation process. It has enriched the English vocabulary considerably; however, translators and lexicographers are faced with the challenge of finding suitable translation equivalents. The study is based on the analysis of the Estonian translation equivalents of over two hundred English denominal verbs in three novels. The results show that apart from the well-established equivalents that can be found both in translations and in the dictionary, the analysis revealed 53 suitable equivalents that were not covered by the dictionary. Two thirds of them were multi-word equivalents; this indicates that multi-word equivalents deserve more attention when compiling bilingual dictionaries. The analysis also revealed 24 meanings with suitable equivalents, which were not listed in the dictionary.

Keywords: conversion, English, Estonian, translation, equivalence, bilingual lexicography

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.12697/jeful.2014.5.3.07>

1. Introduction

Denominal verbs can be derived by the word-formation process called conversion “whereby an item is transferred to another word class without the addition of a suffix” (Roey 1990: 86) or, in other words, “the derivation of a new word without any overt marking” (Plag 2003: 107). Examples of conversion are, for instance, the Estonian verb *rohima* ‘to weed’, which is derived from the noun *rohi* ‘grass’, and the English verb *to bottle*, which is derived from the noun *bottle*. Conversion typically occurs between nouns, verbs, and adjectives. However, examples from other word classes can be found as well, for example, Estonian *läbi* ‘through’ > *läbima* ‘pass through’, *kaasa* ‘with; along’ > *kaasama* ‘include’ (Erelt et al. 1995: 420). Depending on the theoretical approach, three terms have been used in the literature: conversion, zero derivation,

and functional shift. In the present paper, the term ‘conversion’ is used, which is also used, for example, by Plag (2003), Šeškauskiene (2013), Štekauer et al. (2012), Veisbergs (2013). The adherents of zero derivation focus on the concept of zero in derivation and try to establish parallels with suffixation. Dieter Kastovsky, who represents this school of thought, shows the parallelism between zero derivation and suffixation with the following examples: *to cheat* verb: *cheat* noun; = *to write* : *write/er*; *clean* adj : *to clean* verb; = *legal* adj : *to legal/ize* verb (Kastovsky 2009: 153). Among Estonian lexicologists, Silvi Vare uses the term conversion (1993, 2004); conversion is used also by Erelt et al. (1995: 419–420). Reet Kasik, on the other hand, is a proponent of zero derivation (2012). The author of the present article prefers to use the term conversion, following the argument by Plag that conversion expresses a wider range of meanings than affixes (Plag 2003: 112–113). The debate about the meaning of zero in derivation has been going on for decades; for an overview of the problems involved see Pennanen (1971) and Plag (2003: 111–114). The third term ‘functional shift’ or ‘grammatical shift’ focuses on the change of the word class. It is used, for example, by John Algeo who interprets conversion as a ‘shift of grammar’; Algeo’s theoretical framework for the study of neologisms includes three shifts: ‘shift of form’, ‘shift of meaning’, and ‘shift of grammar’ (Algeo 1991: 13).

2. Conversion from a contrastive perspective

According to a recent typological survey of word-formation in the world’s languages, conversion was found in 61.82 per cent of the languages of the example under study (Štekauer et al. 2012: 215). In English, conversion is “one of the three major types of word-building” (Šeškauskiene 2013: 124) along with compounding and affixation. It has been estimated that about ten per cent of new lexemes are nowadays coined by conversion (Adams 2009: 164). John Algeo notes that “not all languages have this freedom to change a word’s part of speech without using affixes or otherwise modifying its form” (Algeo 1991: 13). The benefit of conversion is that it is a highly efficient and economical method of creating new lexemes. Comparisons with other languages have revealed that conversion is a word-formation process that contributes to the size of English vocabulary. For example, Jacques van Roey has argued that conversion in English “contributes to the

constant enrichment of the vocabulary in areas where French may have a lexical gap” (Roey 1990: 86). He gives several examples of denominal verbs: “*to tunnel* : creuser un tunnel, *to elbow (through sth)* : se frayer un passage à travers (en jouant des coudes), *to Hoover* : passer à l’aspirateur, *to treasure* : garder précieusement, *to veto* : opposer son veto, *to helicopter* : transporter en hélicoptère” (ibid.). According to Roey, English vocabulary “tends to be more concrete and precise, richer in expressive details, whereas the French vocabulary is more generic and abstract” (ibid.: 81). Thus, one is dealing with asymmetry in word-formation, which has to be balanced by expressing the same meaning in other languages by some other means.

Andrejs Veisbergs has claimed that, in comparison with English, conversion in Latvian is a minor type of word-formation (2013: 95). As far as Estonian is concerned, there is no doubt that conversion does exist in Estonian (Erelt et al. 1995: 419–420). Rather, the problem is how extensive and productive it is. Estonian lexicologists hold somewhat different views in this respect. Reet Kasik is generally reluctant to admit that conversion could be significant in Estonian word-formation (2009, 2012). She admits, though, that in Estonian conversion is to a certain extent productive with regard to denominal verbs with an instrumental meaning (Kasik 2009: 10), e.g. *saag* ‘a saw’, *saagima* ‘to saw’; *viil* ‘a file’, *viilima* ‘to file’. Silvi Vare, on the other hand, claims that conversion is an ancient method of word-formation in Estonian, which continues to be productive in contemporary Estonian (Vare 2004: 62). According to Vare, denominal verbs constitute the most productive type of conversion in Estonian, accounting for eighty per cent of conversion (ibid.: 45–46). Comparison of Estonian and English shows several parallels in denominal conversion verbs. They include verbs with instrumental meanings (use X) *harjama* ‘to brush’, *kammima* ‘to comb’; ornative meanings (provide with X) *lappima* ‘to patch’, *muldama* ‘to earth (cover the roots with earth)’, *soolama* ‘to salt’, *tõrvama* ‘to tar’; causatives (make X) *haavama* ‘to wound’; resultatives (make into X) *kuhjama* ‘to heap, to pile’; and privatives (remove X) *rohima* ‘to weed’ (for the use of this terminology for types of meaning, see Plag 2003: 112). It is interesting to note that a proportion of Estonian nouns paired with denominal verbs are loanwords. In some cases, etymologists have shown that both the noun and the verb could be borrowings, for example, *saag* is a Low German loanword, and the verb *saagima* could also be of Low German origin; the same is true of *viil* and *viilima* (Metsmägi et al. 2012). In such cases, conversion did not occur in Estonian; however,

the existence of such word pairs could act as a contributing factor to the spread of conversion. Silvi Vare, on the other hand, takes a broader view of conversion with regard to the degree of allowable stem variations (2004). For the present study, it is of interest how the same meaning that is expressed by conversion in English is expressed in Estonian. Moreover, in recent decades one can witness some increase in the use of conversion in Estonian (e.g. *vokk* 'wok' > *vokkima* 'to stir-fry'), *mess* 'text message' > *messima* 'to text, send an SMS'); one can also notice competition between suffixed words with *-eeri-* as in *boikoteerima* 'to boycott' and conversion *boikottima* 'to boycott'. According to Vare, the increase in the number of conversion verbs in recent decades could be explained by the promotion of the principle of economy by language planners; it is true that conversion is common in borrowed words (Vare 2004: 62).

3. The aim and scope of the present study

The study has the following aims: 1) to explore how English denominal verbs are translated into Estonian, 2) to explore whether English-Estonian bilingual lexicography could benefit from the equivalents found in translations, 3) to explore how meaning is expressed cross-linguistically; that is, whether meaning is expressed by means of a single or a multi-word unit, 4) to explore how English denominal verbs are treated in English-Estonian bilingual dictionaries, and 5) to improve the coverage of denominal verbs and to enrich the range of translation equivalents in bilingual dictionaries. Dictionaries can be regarded as tools for language learners and translators, and they could be improved by generalizing good translation practices. On the one hand, lexicographers could benefit from the study of translations because translations often reveal translations equivalents that could be possible candidates for inclusion in bilingual dictionaries. On the other hand, translators could benefit much more from bilingual dictionaries if the suggested equivalents were reversible and insertable in texts.

Thus, the study has practical applications in bilingual lexicography and translator training.

“Translation is relevant to lexicography in two major respects. Firstly, it is the process by which lexical EQUIVALENTS are codified in bilingual dictionaries. Secondly, in the process of translation, reference needs arise, both factual and linguistic, which the translator

attempts to meet *inter alia* by consulting dictionaries and other reference works” (Hartmann and James 1998: 146).

The present study is based on the analysis of over two hundred English denominal verbs and their Estonian translation equivalents found in the translations of three novels (Christie 2007 and 2008, Crichton 1993 and 1994, Welsh 2004 and 2010). The particular books were chosen because they happened to be in my home library. Out of the three novels, *Trainspotting* by Irvine Welsh was the most interesting book regarding the focus of the study. In addition to well-established denominal verbs, it contained examples of less used meanings, such as *to glass* or *to granny*; it also revealed examples of Scots English, such as *to chib* ‘to knife’, and a large number of informal and slang words; the book also is well translated.

The dictionary used for analysis was the fourth edition of the English-Estonian dictionary by Johannes Silvet (2002). What makes this dictionary invaluable is the fact that to date it is the main source of well-established Estonian equivalents for English words.

4. Translation equivalents vs. dictionary equivalents

The translation equivalents were evaluated with regard to their suitability of inclusion in bilingual dictionaries. The criteria for suitability included semantic precision, appropriate register, natural-sounding collocations, and reversibility. The analysis of the material showed that the equivalents found in the translations could be divided into four groups. The first group comprises well-established equivalents for meanings that occur both in translations and in the dictionary. The number of such equivalents was 54. Examples include *back* ‘taganema’, *block* ‘tõkestama, blokeerima’, *guard* ‘valvama’, *hand* ‘ulatama’, *land* 1 ‘maanduma’, 2 ‘maabuma’, *head* ‘suunduma’, *lock* ‘lukustama’, *name* ‘nimetama’, *picture* ‘kujutama’, *snake* ‘siuglema’, *telephone* ‘helistama’. It is characteristic of this group that the majority of words have single-word equivalents in Estonian, though some multi-word equivalents can also be found, for example, *purse up* ‘huuli prunti ajama’ and *thread sb’s needle* ‘niiti nõela taha ajama’. The analysed material included five verbs where the Estonian equivalent followed the same method of word-formation: *fax* ‘faksima’, *fine* ‘trahvima’, *risk* ‘riskima’, *screw* ‘kruvima’, *test* ‘testima, kontrollima’; all these Estonian verbs represent borrowings and not native words.

The second group comprises new (additional) equivalents that are not recorded in the dictionary but deserve inclusion while the meaning in question is covered. The number of such equivalents was 48. It is characteristic of this group that two-thirds of them are multi-word equivalents, for example, *contact* ‘kontakti võtma’, ‘ühendust võtma’, ‘ühendusse astuma’, *ditch* ‘maha jätma’, *dust* ‘tolmu pühkima’, *ferret out* ‘välja nuuskima’, *lock* ‘lukku keerama’, *party* ‘pidu panema’, *patent* ‘patenti võtma’, *stream* ‘ojadena voolama’, *tart up* ‘üles vuntsima’. This shows that multi-word equivalents tend to be underrepresented in bilingual dictionaries and their inclusion would be important for improving the range of dictionary equivalents and lexical enrichment of bilingual dictionaries.

The third group includes new meanings not listed by the dictionary together with suitable equivalents. The number of such meanings is 24. Seventeen of these meanings have multi-word equivalents; once again, this indicates the significance of multi-word equivalents in the lexical enrichment of bilingual dictionaries. The composition of this group is heterogeneous. Some observations, however, can be made. Some of them represent cases where a noun is listed by the dictionary, but the denominal verb meaning is not, for example, *cap* ‘korki peale kruvima’, *floor* ‘gaasipedaali põhja vajutama’ *Vaseline* ‘vaseliiniga kokku määrima’. Here belong also instances where the verb meaning is metaphorical, for example, *bug* ‘häirima’, *fishtail* ‘ühest teeservast teise vintsklema’, *rabbit* ‘lobisema, jahvatama’. One can also see that there is some room for improvement with regard to the coverage of informal language, for example, *bevvy* ‘tina panema’, *french-kiss* ‘tatti panema’, *you’re kidding* ‘nalja teete või’.

The fourth group consisted of those cases that had to be discarded as candidates for inclusion in a bilingual dictionary. The most common reason for rejection is that they are contextual equivalents that are not suitable for inclusion because they are not reversible. There were also instances where an equivalent did not occur at all in the translation.

However, when combining groups two and three, one can see that the study of translations can be rather useful in search of new equivalents for inclusion in bilingual dictionaries.

Let us begin the discussion of translated examples and the dictionary equivalents with designations of parts of the body. As far as English is concerned, Andreijs Veisbergs has claimed that “practically all parts of the human body have their verbal counterparts” (2013: 96). Inesa Šeškauskiene, on the other hand, has pointed out that conversion is often

accompanied by remarkable semantic change, for example, “the word *head* is a human body-part whereas the verb *to head* refers to moving in a particular direction and does not seem to be directly related to the base word” (Šeškauskiene 2013: 123–124).

The verb ‘to eye’ was chosen as a starting point for discussion for a variety of reasons. First, the Estonian equivalent *silmitsema* as used in example (2) is a well-established equivalent. Such an equivalent is valuable from the perspective of a bilingual dictionary (example 3) because it is reversible and insertable in texts. It also illustrates the possibility that a meaning expressed in English by conversion can be expressed in Estonian by a suffixed verb.

- (1a) Spud, wearing a Republic of Ireland football strip, is **eyeing** a back-packer who has blonde hair, and has just removed her pack to give him a view of her tight-arsed jeans (Welsh 2004: 326).
- (1b) Spud, kes kannab Iiri jalgpallikoondise dressi, **silmitseb** blondi-juukselist seljakotituristi, kes on just seljakoti seljast võtnud ja toonud Spudile nähtavale oma teksadesse pakitud pringi pepu (Welsh 2010: 332).
- (2) **eye** 1 s silm (*ka* nõelal, kartulil *jms*); pilk, vaade; (märklaua) keskpunkt, kese; ümmargune auk või avaus, aken *jms*; (haagile vastav) aas, õõs; 2 *v t* (**eyeing**) silmitsema (Silvet 2002).

Second, as example (3b) shows, translations often reveal equivalents, which are suitable in specific contexts but have less value for lexicographic description because they are not reversible in bilingual dictionaries.

- (3a) Funny the way they **eyed** each other – as though they *knew*... (Christie 2007: 50).
- (3b) Imelik, kuidas nad kõik üksteist **jõllitasid**...nad just nagu *teadsid* (Christie 2008: 33).

The verb ‘to finger’ was chosen to show that a denominal verb may have multiple meanings, as example (5) shows. On the other hand, one can also see that the equivalent found in example (4b) is not covered by the dictionary. Thus, a positive aspect in the analysis of translations is that one can find suitable equivalents that could improve the range of equivalents offered by bilingual dictionaries.

- (4a) **Fingering** his small moustache, Captain Lombard said, 'You understand I can't undertake anything – illegal?' (Christie 2007: 17).
- (4b) Oma väikesi vurre **näppides** tähendas kapten Lombard: "Kas mõistate, et ma ei saa ette võtta midagi...ebaseaduslikku?" (Christie 2008: 9).
- (5) **finger** 1 *s* sõrm, näpp; *tehn* sõrmtapp; tapp, tihvt; osuti (= **hand**); (mõõduna) sõrmelaius; siil, lõik, viil; 2 *v t* sõrmitsema, sõrmedega puudutama või kobama; näperdama, näpitsema; (alktäemaksu) võtma, näppama; sõrmedega (pilli) mängima, sõrmi (mänguks) reeglipäraselt seadma; (muusikapala) sõrmeseademärkidega varustama; *Am fam* (kedagi) politseile üles andma (Silvet 2002).

Unfortunately, the situation is not as promising as it may seem at first glance. A general problem of interlingual equivalence with denominal verbs is that English is concrete, but in many cases Estonian translation equivalents tend to have a broader meaning. Similar to intralingual synonymy, where X is Y and Y is X, accurate cross-linguistic equivalents have to be reversible. In case a translation equivalent is not precise, it is not suitable for inclusion in a bilingual dictionary. As the following examples show, it is a common problem with informal vocabulary. The translation equivalent in example (6b) has a broader meaning than the English verb, and the equivalents suggested by the bilingual dictionary (example 7) are not convincing either.

- (6a) Molly had been in love with Sick Boy since he **necked** with her in a seedy disco bar in Leith a few weeks ago (Welsh 2004: 326).
- (6b) Molly on Sick Boyssse armunud sellest ajast, kui ta paar nädalat tagasi ühes Leithi räpases diskobaaris temaga **suudles** (Welsh 2010: 332).
- (7) **neck** 1 *s* kael (*ka piltl*); ka kukal (= **back of the neck**); maakitsus (= **neck of land**); *geol* nekk (tardunud laavaga täitunud vulkaanilõõr); (rõiva) kaelaava; (liha) kaelatükk; *fam* **häbematus, jultumus**; 2 *v i* *fam er Am* kaelutsema, armatsema (Silvet 2002).

The next example illustrates the situation when the denominal verb ('to rabbit') is not covered by the bilingual dictionary.

- (8) **rabbit** *s* küülik, kodujänes; *fam* mannetu tegelane, *er* vilets mängija; *Am* eesjooksja, tempo dikteerija (Silvet 2002).

In such cases the study of translated equivalents could be helpful. However, not all of the translated equivalents are suitable for inclusion in a dictionary. Examples (9b) and (10b) reveal very good equivalents, but example (11b) has to be discarded because it represents a contextual translation.

- (9a) The speed's obviously helping, however, even though he is somewhat distraught to hear that Spud **is rabbiting on about** Frank Zappa (Welsh 2004: 135).
- (9b) Aga eks spiid ilmselt aitab, ehkki mõnevõrra häiriv on kuulda, et Spud **jahvatab** midagi Frank Zappa kohta (Welsh 2010: 141).
- (10a) ...but I'm **rabbiting** a bit here (Welsh 2004: 166).
- (10b) ...aga ma olen **lobisema** jäänud (Welsh 2010: 170).
- (11a) Well, non, non, non, Monsieur Renton, Simone is not cut out to sit in darkened rooms with Leith plebs and junkies **rabbiting** shite aw affie (Welsh 2004: 28).
- (11b) *Non, non, non*, Monsieur Renton. Simon ei lõika end maailmast välja pimedasse tuppa koos Leithi pööbli ja narkaritega terve õhtupooliku lolli **ila ajama** (Welsh 2010: 34).

The next section deals with denominal verbs that are derived from compounds. Apart from the fact that in English denominal verbs can be derived from compounds, the sense of the new verb can be metaphorical. One has to note that such metaphorical senses are often absent from bilingual dictionaries. For example, the English-Estonian dictionary lists the noun 'fishtail', but there is no entry for the verb 'to fishtail'.

- (12) **fishtail** 1 *s* kalasaba; 2 *a* kalasabakujuuline, kalasaba (Silvet 2002).

A possible explanation is that it is difficult to provide accurate cross-linguistic equivalents without lexical research. In such cases, the study of translated texts could be of considerable help.

- (13a) He slammed on the brakes and the Jeep **fishtailed**, losing traction in an end-to-end spin... (Crichton 1993: 194).
- (13b) Ta vajutas täiest jõust pidurile, džiiip **viskles ühest teeservast teise**, tahtes tagumist otsa ette keerata... (Crichton 1994: 179–180).

The verb ‘to cold-shoulder’ is not covered by the dictionary either. The compound verb originates from the idiom *to give sb the cold shoulder* ‘to deliberately ignore sb’.

- (14a) Renton thinks the girl has taste, because she **cold-shoulders** the fat guy (Welsh 2004: 135).
- (14b) Rentoni meelest on tüdrukul maitset, sest ta **ei tee** paksmaost **väljagi** (Welsh 2010: 141).

Lexemes belonging to informal language tend to have more synonyms than neutral words. This is an important factor that a lexicographer has to take into account. Here the study of translated equivalents can be helpful for enhancing the range of synonyms in bilingual dictionaries. For example, the bilingual dictionary provides the following equivalents for the verb ‘to bullshit’.

- (15) **bullshit** 1 *s vulg sl* lollus, jama, pläma; 2 *v i & t* lollusi rääkima, pläma ajama (Silvet 2002).

However, examples (16b) and (17b) reveal two multi-word equivalents (*jura ajama* and *jama ajama*) that could be used as dictionary equivalents.

- (16a) Ah **wis** still **bullshittin** telling her that ah’d always admired her as a person and a woman... (Welsh 2004: 218).
- (16b) Minu **jura** jätkub sellega, et ma olen teda alati imetlenud kui inimest ja naist... (Welsh 2010: 224).
- (17a) The minister could find little decent to say about Venters and, to his credit, he didn’t **bullshit** (Welsh 2004: 259).
- (17b) Vaimulikul polnud palju kiiduväärset Ventersi kohta öelda ja talle tuleb au anda, et ta ei hakanud ka **jama ajama** (Welsh 2010: 265).

Another interesting aspect of English denominal verbs is that verbs can also be derived from clippings. Clippings are typically informal shortenings of polysyllabic words. The analysed material revealed two such denominal verbs, and they could not be found in the bilingual dictionary. The verb *to sub* ‘to lend money to (a person), esp as an advance on wages’ (OED) is derived from the noun *sub*, which, in its turn, is a clipping of ‘subsistence (money)’. The Estonian equivalent in

example (18b) is more general than the English word, but it could be included in a dictionary if a short explanation were added. The second equivalent (19b) has to be discarded as a contextual translation.

- (18a) **Sub** us a ten-spot doll, he asks Molly, not forgetting that he has a three-and-a-half grand stake in the contents of the Adidas bag (Welsh 2004: 327).
- (18b) **Laena** mulle kümnekat, musi, ütleb ta Mollyle, unustamata samas, et tal on Adidas e kotis ootel kolme ja poole tonnine osak (Welsh 2010: 333).
- (19a) **Sub** us then mate. Ah'm expectin a rent cheque (Welsh 2004: 317).
- (19b) **Toeta** mind siis, ole meheks. Mul peaks varsti abiraha tulema (Welsh 2010: 324).

In the case of 'bevvy', which is a clipping of 'beverage' together with the diminutive suffix *-y* shows that there can be cases when suffixed words can also be turned into verbs in English. As is often the case, the bilingual dictionary provides the noun but not the verb. Example (21b) reveals an informal equivalent in Estonian; however, one should point out that both English and Estonian have a very rich repertoire of synonyms for the notion of drinking and intoxication and that many other suitable equivalents can be found.

- (20) **bevvy** *s* (*pl ies*) *fam* alkohoolne jook (Silvet 2002).
- (21a) The Beggar **had been bevvyin** before we met up (Welsh 2004: 77).
- (21b) Beggar **on** juba enne kokkutulemist **tina pannud** (Welsh 2010: 83).

Then, one has to take into account the fact that English is a pluricentric language, which means that it has multiple standards. Among the analysed books, *Trainspotting* by Irvine Welsh included several words that are characteristic of Scottish English. The noun 'chib' is a Scottish term for 'a knife used as a weapon', and 'to chib' is a cross-varietal synonym for 'to stab'. The word is not listed in J. Silvet's English-Estonian dictionary.

- (22a) Dode's **been chibbed** (Welsh 2004: 129).
- (22b) Dode **on nuga saanud** (Welsh 2010: 135).

In the case of the verb ‘to chum’, Silvet’s dictionary does not list the Scottish sense that can be found in example (24a). The translation equivalent is accurate and this sense could be added to the treatment of the verb.

(23) **chum** 1 *s fam* toakaaslane, semu, lähedane sõber; 2 *v i* toakaasla-seks olema (kellelegi with; kellegagi koos together), semutsema, sõbrustama (Silvet 2002).

(24a) Ah **chums** Dode tae the hospital (Welsh 2004: 129).

(24b) Ma **saadan** Dode’i haiglasse (Welsh 2010: 135).

An aspect that deserves attention as regards Estonian translation equivalents is the variation between suffixed verbs with *-eeri-* and shorter verbs formed by means of conversion. Silvi Vare (1993: 38) has studied the history of variation between the competing forms and found that conversion was promoted during the first half of the 20th century in the dictionaries compiled by Johannes Voldemar Veski and Elmar Muuk. Then a period followed when conversion played a much more modest role. However, starting with the 1970s, the principle of brevity and language economy has prevailed, and the language planners have started to prefer verbs formed by means of conversion.

Interestingly enough, the studied translations revealed some instances when the longer suffixed verb was preferred.

(25a) They have managed to **clone** extinct animals from the past (Crichton 1993: 66).

(25b) Nad on õppinud väljasurnud loomi **kloneerima** (Crichton 1994: 65).

The latest edition of the dictionary of correct Estonian usage, ÕS 2013, lists only *kloonima*.

(26) **kloonima** *biol klooni tekitama* (ÕS 2013).

A possible explanation of the consistent use of *kloneerima* in the translation is that the book was translated twenty years ago when discussing cloning was not that common yet. In the meanwhile, the shorter form has prevailed. The dictionary by Johannes Silvet provides both forms, but the shorter form is given first.

(27) **clone** 1 *s biol* kloon; 2 *v t & i* kloonima, kloneerima (Silvet 2002).

The second instance concerns the verb *to guillotine* and, once again, the longer suffixed form is preferred in the translation while the dictionaries promote the shorter form.

- (28a) He writhed fitfully against his bonds, feeling like the tip of his penis **had been guillotined** off (Welsh 2004: 269).
- (28b) Ta vingerdas ägedalt oma sidemetes, tundes, nagu oleks tema peenise ots **giljotineeritud** (Welsh 2010: 276).
- (29) **giljotiinima, giljotineerima** *giljotiinil v giljotiini all hukkama* (ÕS 2013).

Finally, one should discuss briefly the phenomenon of contextuals. The term ‘contextual’ denotes new denominal verbs that are not well-established in the language and are unfamiliar to the user (Clark and Clark 1979 and Aronoff 1980). The verbs *to glass* and *to granny* in the following examples represent perhaps the category of ‘half-assimilated transparent idioms’ or ‘near innovations’ rather than ‘complete innovations’ (Aronoff 1980: 745) because they have been used more than once and are discussed in the literature. Nevertheless, these verbs are somewhat unexpected for the ordinary reader and create an effect of novelty. In the first example a glass is used as a weapon; therefore *to glass* means ‘to hit sb with a glass’. In the second example, the verb *to granny sb* ‘to defeat comprehensively, to allow one’s opponent no score at all’ refers to the wolf in the granny’s disguise in the well-known story about Red Riding Hood (Green 2009: 592). As can be seen, it is possible to render such meanings in translation; however, such translation equivalents are not reversible.

- (30a) Renton recalled the time when Begbie had **glassed** Roy Sneddon, in the Vine, for fuck all (Welsh 2004: 343).
- (30b) Rentonile meenus, kuidas Begbie **virutas** Vine’is asja ees teist taga Roy Sneddonile **õllekannuga näkku** (Welsh 2010: 348).
- (31a) Ah racks up n slaughters the cunt, leavin the fucker two baws oaf **being grannied** (Welsh 2004: 111).
- (31b) Ma võtan kii pihku ja teen tõpra joonelt tümaks, ainult kaks krdi palli jäi puudu, et könn **oleks kuivalt pähe saanud** (Welsh 2010: 117).

Michael Adams (2009: 163–164) discusses the results of an experiment where the brain activity of the subjects was measured while reading William Shakespeare's play *Coriolanus*. It appeared that the subjects' brain activity was stimulated considerably when they encountered the innovative use of the word 'god' as a verb, as in 'he godded me'. The verb 'god' is recorded in the *Oxford English Dictionary* with the label 'rare', and there are seven examples to illustrate this meaning. The experiment showed that conversion has been employed for novelty for a long time and continues to be an important method of linguistic innovation in English.

5. Conclusion

Dictionaries serve as tools for translators and language learners. As regards denominal verbs formed by conversion, it appears that the quality of bilingual dictionaries can be improved by enlarging the range of suitable equivalents found in translations. The study of over 200 denominal conversion verbs showed that apart from well-established Estonian equivalents, which could be found both in translations and in the dictionary, the translations revealed a considerable number of suitable equivalents that were not recorded by the bilingual dictionary. The fact that two thirds of them were multi-word combinations indicates that multi-word combinations deserve more attention in search of equivalents. In addition, the analysis revealed 24 new meanings with suitable equivalents that were not covered by the dictionary. The inclusion of a new meaning in a bilingual dictionary is justified if the same meaning is covered by monolingual dictionaries. However, the use of translations has limited value because some equivalents do not qualify as dictionary equivalents. One should also point out that the role of conversion in Estonian word-formation has somewhat increased in recent decades. It points to some convergence between English and Estonian.

Address:

Enn Veldi
Department of English
Lossi 3–314
51003 Tartu
Estonia
E-mail: Enn.Veldi@ut.ee

Sources

- Christie, Agatha (2007) *And then there were none*. London: Harper.
- Christie, Agatha (2008) *Ja ei jäänud teda ka*. Translated from English by Mart Aru. Tallinn: Varrak.
- Crichton, Michael (1993) *Jurassic park*. New York: Ballantine Books.
- Crichton, Michael (1994) *Sauruste park*. Translated from English by Urmas Rattus. Tallinn: AS Kupar.
- Welsh, Irvine (2004) *Trainspotting*. London: Vintage Books.
- Welsh, Irvine (2010) *Trainspotting*. Translated from English by Olavi Teppan. Tallinn: Koolibri.

References

- Adams, Michael (2009) *Slang: the people's poetry*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Algeo, John (1991) *Fifty years among the new words. A dictionary of neologisms, 1941–1991*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Aronoff, Mark (1980) "Contextuals". *Language* 56, 4, 744–758.
- Clark, Eve and Herbert Clark (1979) "When nouns surface as verbs". *Language* 55, 767–811.
- Erelt, Mati et al. (1995) = Erelt, Mati, Reet Kasik, Helle Metslang, Henno Rajandi, Kristiina Ross, Henn Saari, Kaja Tael, and Silvi Vare (1995) *Eesti keele grammatika I. Morfoloogia, sõnamoodustus*. Tallinn: Eesti Teaduste Akadeemia Eesti Keele Instituut.
- Green, Jonathon (2009) *Chambers slang dictionary*. Edinburgh: Chambers.
- Hartmann, Reinhard Rudolf Karl and Gregory James (1998) *Dictionary of lexicography*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Kasik, Reet (2009) *Eesti keele sõnatuletus. Third, revised edition*. Tartu: Tartu Ülikooli Kirjastus.
- Kasik, Reet (2012) "Nulltuletus ja konversioon eesti keeles". *Keel ja Kirjandus* 55, 11, 793–806.
- Metsmägi, Iris, Meeli Sedrik, and Sven-Erik Soosaar (2012) *Eesti etümoloogiasõnaraamat*. Tallinn: Eesti Keele Sihtasutus.
- OED = Oxford English Dictionary*. Available online at <<http://www.oed.com>>. Accessed on 29.04.2014.
- Pennanen, Esko V. (1971) *Conversion and zero-derivation in English*. (Acta Universitatis Tamperensis Ser. A, 40.) Tampere: Tampereen Yliopisto.
- Plag, Ingo (2003) *Word-formation in English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Roey, Jacques van (1990) *French-English contrastive lexicology: an introduction*. Leuven: Peeters.
- Silvet, Johannes (2002) *English-Estonian Dictionary. 4th enlarged and revised edition*. Tallinn: TEA.

- Šeškauskienė, Inesa (2013) *Ways with words: insights into the English lexicon and some cross-linguistic aspects of study*. Vilnius: Vilnius University Publishing House.
- Štekauer, Pavol, Salvador Valera, and Livia Körtvélyessy (2012) *Word-formation in the world's languages: a typological survey*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Vare, Silvi (1993) "Konversioonist eesti keele sõnamoodustuses". *Virittäjä* 34, 1, 34–50.
- Vare, Silvi (2004) "Eesti keele verbimoodustus: desubstantiivne konversioon". *Emakeele Seltsi aastaraamat* 50, 39–67.
- Veisbergs, Andrejs (2013) *English and Latvian word-formation compared*. Riga: The University of Latvia Press.
- ÕS 2013 = Eesti õigekeelsussõnaraamat ÕS 2013. Maire Raadik, ed. Compiled by Erelt, Tiiu, Tiina Leemets, Sirje Mäearu, and Maire Raadik. Tallinn: Eesti Keele Sihtasutus, 2013.

Kokkuvõte. Enn Veldi: Konversiooni abil tuletatud inglise desubstantiivsed verbid ning nende eestikeelsed vasted: tõlgete ja J. Silveti inglise-eesti sõnaraamatu võrdlus. Konversioon on ökonoomne sõnamoodustusprotsess, mis on rikastanud inglise keele sõnavara olulisel määral. Samas on tõlkijate ja leksikograafide ülesanne leida neile sobivad tõlkevasted. Artikkel põhineb üle 200 inglise desubstantiivse verbi tõlkevastete analüüsil, mis esinesid kolmes romaanis. Tulemused näitavad, et lisaks väljakujunenud tõlkevastetele, mis esinevad nii tõlgetes kui sõnaraamatus, leidis tõlgetes 53 sobivat tõlkevastet, mis sõnastikus kajastamist ei leidnud. Kaks kolmandikku neist olid mitmesõnalised vasted, mis näitab, et mitmesõnalised vasted väärivad kakskeelsete sõnaraamatute koostamisel rohkem tähelepanu. Tõlgete analüüs tõi samuti esile 24 tähendust koos sobivate tõlkevastetega, mis sõnastikus kajastamist ei leidnud.

Märksõnad: konversioon, inglise keel, eesti keel, tõlkimine, ekvivalentsus, kakskeelne leksikograafia