

Suggested Taxonomy of Contrastive Studies by Tomas Krzeszowski



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- This classification of contrastive studies is based on distinguishing various kinds of equivalence and hence *tertium comparationis*.
- It is based on the assumption that various kinds of contrastive studies can be distinguished in a strict relation to various *tertium comparationis* adopted and, consequently, to various kinds of equivalence.

The first division

- Text-bound CS
 - *la parole*
 - **comparisons of texts** in two (or more) languages and do **not** go beyond such texts to generalizations about grammars, i.e. rules and systems that generate those texts.
- Systematic/projective CS
 - *la langue*
 - related to text-bound contrastive studies in the same way in which the study of language is related to the study of texts;
 - such studies go beyond primary linguistic data found in texts in order to
grasp and formulate generalizations about various aspects of compared languages.

2-text

- the term **2-text** – refer to any pair of texts, *written or oral*, in two languages which are used as data in contrastive studies.
- Every *2-text* can be described in terms of a binary distinction: [\pm translation]
- A *2-text* marked as [**+ trans**] – constituent texts can function as translations – qualitative CS
- A *2-text* marked [**– trans**] – not translations – quantitative CS

- **Text-bound CS** – are **corpus-restricted** (if no systematic generalizations outside the original data are made).
- **Quantitative CS** – are **necessarily corpus-restricted** (even if they enable one to make statistical predictions concerning other similar texts).
- **Quantitative text-bound CS** – may also be **corpus-restricted** (as long as they do not aim at drawing systemic generalizations about the languages of the 2-text) – **but** they may also serve as **basis for projective generalizations** (if clearly stated constraints on the selection of the relevant 2-texts are formulated and implemented)
- The relevant **2-texts** serve as **linguistic data** on which contrastive grammars as generalizations about differences and similarities in the compared languages are based.

tertium comparationis

type of CS **type of tertium comparationis**

tertium comparationis

tertium comparationis

subtypes

subtypes

subsubtypes subsubtypes

subsubtypes subsubtypes

unique within each type

type of tertium comparationis



a specific type of equivalence

- Tomas Krzeszowski proposes to distinguish **7 types** of equivalence in CS.
- **type of equivalence** ➡ **type of tertium comparationis**
- each type of tertium comparationis will determine a different kind of equivalence, i. e. the relation obtaining between the compared items.
- 1 - statistical equivalence
- 2 - translation equivalence
- 3 - system equivalence
- 4 - semanto-syntactic equivalence
- 5 - rule equivalence
- 6 - pragmatic (functional) equivalence
- 7 - substantial equivalence
- the 7 proposed types of equivalence are constrained structurally (3,4,5,7), functionally (6) and translationally (1,2).

- Text-bound CS **may** involve **statistical CS** → 2-text need **not** be [+trans]
- to prevent **comparisons of incomparables**
 - establish a *tertium comparationis* → equivalence
- The *tertium comparationis* will restrict **the class of texts**

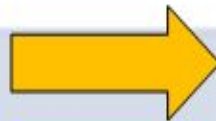


written in the same **register, topic** or **literary genre**

- „sameness” will determine the *tertium comparationis*
- translations ➡ **no** additional requirements are necessary

text
bound
(2-text
given)

• \pm trans \rightarrow quantitative



statistical equivalence

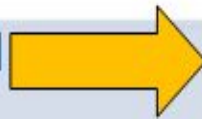
• + trans \rightarrow qualitative (corpus restricted)
equivalence



translation

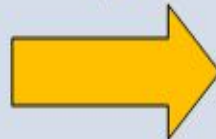
systematic
(2-text
available)

• structurally constrained



semantic and syntactic equivalence

• functionally constrained



pragmatic equivalence

- **(1) statistical equivalence** can be established on 2-texts which are either [+trans] or [– trans] - but in the [– trans] the extra requirements (referred to above) must be met
- **statistical equivalence** refers to various systematically equivalent items which appear in 2-texts and which have maximally similar frequencies of occurrence.
- *(1) I saw Peter entering the house*

The semantic-syntactic equivalent of (1) in Polish is

- *(2) Widziałem Piotra wchodzącego do domu*
- * Бачив Петра входившого до будинку

Noun phrase 1 + Verb + Noun phrase 2 + ing-verb + X

generalization:

- two linguistic items across languages are **statistically equivalent** if they occur as the **most frequent translations** of each other and/or if, in comparison with other synonymous constructions, they have **maximally similar frequency of occurrence** in the relevant texts.

- **(2) translation equivalence**
- 2-texts [+trans]
- translations need not be **"correct" or "acceptable"**
- often display considerable **deviations** from other kind of equivalence
- such deviations are not necessarily due to errors in translation, BUT often have their source in **various pragmatic considerations**

Systematic CS

- involve comparison of **constructions, systems** and **rules**
 - CS of construction - based on (4) - semanto-syntactic equivalence
 - CS of systems - based on (3) - system equivalence
 - CS of rules – construction – input and output - (4) - semanto-syntactic equivalence **underlies** (5) - rule equivalence
- interdependent

- Phonological and lexical CS - based on the (7) - substantial equivalence

(as it is connected with **material substance** outside language)

- Stylistic and sociolinguistic CS - based on the (6) - pragmatic (functional) equivalence

(a relation that holds between constituent texts of *2-texts* selected in such a way that they evoke **maximally similar cognitive reactions** in the users of these texts)

type of CS  **type of tertium comparationis**

unique within each type

Thank you for attention!
P.S. Here a picture of cute cat^^

