

UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

MASTER THESIS

**KOMPARATIVNA ANALIZA BOSANSKOG I ENGLESKOG PREVODA
NA PRIMJERU KNJIGE “JA SAM ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIĆ”**

Student: Edib Hazrolaj

Mentor: Prof. dr. Amira Sadiković

Sarajevo, 2021

1. ABSTRACT

This work is focusing on the detailed analysis of the translations of the book “I am Zlatan Ibrahimović (Ja sam Zlatan Ibrahimović), in Bosnian and English language. The book is primarily written in Swedish, thus, we will try to compare the two translations and see which one is more fitting and is closer to the original work. This analysis includes the transmitting of both the overall emotional feeling of the book and also the ability of the translators to present the information in the best way possible. Another important aspect of this analysis is the theoretical part, which includes the explanation of the translation theory, and equivalence in translation. We are also analyzing the translation of proper names, footballing terms and curse words, which are one of the key elements of the book.

Key words: translation, football, equivalence, Bosnian translation, English translation, curse words

2. APSTRAKT

Ovaj rad se fokusira na detaljnom analiziranju prevoda knjige "I am Zlatan Ibrahimović (Ja sam Zlatan Ibrahimović)", na bosanskom i engleskom jeziku. Knjiga je originalno napisana na švedskom, stoga ćemo pokušati da analiziramo ova dva prevoda, da bi uvidjeli koji od njih je bliži originalu. Ova analiza uključuje mogućnost prenošenja informacija i općeg emotivnog utiska knjige. Također, jedan od bitnijih aspekata ove analize jeste teorija, koja uključuje objašnjenje teorije prevođenja, kao i ekvivalenciju u prevodu. Također ćemo analizirati prevod vlastitih imena i fudbalskih termina, koji su jedan od ključnih faktora u knjizi.

Ključne riječi: prevod, fudbal, ekvivalencija, bosanski prevod, engleski prevod, psovke

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	1
Apstrakt	2
Introduction	4
About Zlatan	4
Plot summary of I am Zlatan Ibrahimović	5
Register	7
Comparative analysis	8
Proper names and football terms	8
Proper names	8
Football terms and descriptions	9
Dialogues and curse words	17
Conclusion	40
References	41
Primary sources	41
Secondary sources	41
Web sources	41

1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of this paper is to compare the two translations, the Bosnian and the English one, which seem to have plenty in common with one another, and to see which one was closer to the original work. It is important to emphasize that every single form of translation must have, as its core, an excellent theoretical foundation. Besides the theoretical knowledge, another key factor is the practical part. A translator can obtain a vast knowledge regarding the theoretical part of translation, but if they cannot incorporate that knowledge into the work itself, the knowledge is of no use.

The focus of this paper will include several things, ranging from the footballing terms and proper names, to the curse words and the slang and the “simple” language which the narrator (author) uses. The goal will be to analyze which of the two translations managed to deliver to the readers the emotional state of Zlatan Ibrahimović in the moments described in the book.

Every translator should strive to be as close to the original as possible and to try and deliver the message and the overall emotional state of the book to the readers. The translators whose works have been analyzed in this paper are Ševko Kadrić (2012)¹ who translated the work to Bosnian, and Ruth Urbom (2014)² who translated the work to English.

1.1 ABOUT ZLATAN

Before we dive into the deeper analysis, we should briefly take a look at the career and early life of Zlatan Ibrahimović. This is an important part of the analysis because it will give us insight about Zlatan’s early life and his career, which will help us understand the emotional setting of the book and what kind of a person Ibrahimović is.

He was born in 1981. in Malmo, Sweden, as a child of immigrants from the Balkans. Namely, his father was a Muslim Bosniak from Bijeljina, while his mother was a Catholic Croat from the village of Prkos in Croatia. Since they were immigrants and his father was the only one who worked at the time, Zlatan grew up in a ghetto in Sweden, together with other immigrants. Growing up this way changes the person’s way of thinking and behaving, thus we can see many instances of this in his biography. He claimed, on many occasions, that they were so poor that sometimes he

¹ Lagercrantz, David et al. *Ja Sam Zlatan Ibrahimović*. Buybook, 2012.

² Ibrahimović, Zlatan et al. *I Am Zlatan Ibrahimović*. Penguin Books Ltd., 2014.

hardly had anything to eat, and that he spent the majority of his childhood on the street (he was not homeless, but his parents divorced and he stayed at his father's house and his father worked all the time). In the streets, you have to fight for everything. That way, when Zlatan curses in the book, or acts like a gangster, it is just who he is, a child of immigrants who grew up in the ghetto and worked his way up. Another important aspect of his personality is his ego. As Zlatan grew, so did his ego. It is evident throughout the book that he was never given anything, so he constantly talks about himself in the highest of manners.

"Arsène Wenger asked me to have a trial with Arsenal when I was 17. I turned it down. Zlatan doesn't do auditions." ³

This sentence sums up who Zlatan is, especially career wise. Even when he was a young kid, he thought he was the best. So, when we analyze the two translations, we must be aware of Zlatan's personality and upbringing, which are the two crucial factors that will help us understand which of the two translations actually managed to present the real emotional state of his mind.

The summary of his career includes playing for the biggest clubs like Barcelona, Milan, Inter, Juventus and Ajax. He scored over 400 career goals and is one of the most accomplished strikers of all time.⁴

1.2 PLOT SUMMARY OF I AM ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIĆ

This book talks about the details of Zlatan's life. From his early days, throughout his career until the present moment (which at the time was just before joining Paris Saint-Germain). The book is written in first person, as he told his story to the Swedish reporter David Lagercrantz. He begins his story by talking about Pep Guardiola, his former coach in Barcelona with whom he had a turbulent relationship (Zlatan hated him with a passion). He then proceeds to talk about his life and his family, especially his father with whom he also had an up-and-down relationship. He tells us that his father was a hard-working man who was willing to sacrifice everything for his children,

³ Warwick, Josh. "How To Live Your Life Like Zlatan Ibrahimovic". Telegraph.Co.Uk, 2014, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/men/the-filter/11083954/How-to-live-your-life-like-Zlatan-Ibrahimovic.html>. Accessed June 2020.

⁴ "Zlatan Ibrahimovic - Detailed Stats". Transfermarkt.Com, 2021, <https://www.transfermarkt.com/zlatan-ibrahimovic/leistungsdatendetails/spieler/3455>.

but he also had a tendency to drink, though he did not physically abuse them. Zlatan always despised alcohol because of his father and drugs in general.

He then talks about the progress of his football career, from the early days and playing for the local club, through his journey to the world's biggest clubs. He mentions several world class footballers, coaches and managers by name like Lionel Messi, Thierry Henry, Cristiano Ronaldo, Jose Mourinho, Pep Guardiola, Mino Raiola. With every story, we get a glimpse of Zlatan's personality and his incredible talent, but also his incredible ego. He talks about the fact that he had lost himself several times in Barcelona, and how "Zlatan was not Zlatan anymore". He also talks about meeting his wife and he talks about his children and his love for the family.

The book ends with an interesting quote:

A woman wearing a veil came up to me and wanted to take a picture of the two of us and I smiled at her.

People were starting to gather around me. It was a fairy tale, and I was Zlatan Ibrahimovic. (p.287).⁵

⁵ Ibrahimović, Zlatan et al. I Am Zlatan Ibrahimović. Penguin Books Ltd., 2014.

2 REGISTER

Before we start the analysis of this particular work, we have to mention the register that was used by the translators and in the original text.

Namely, the three texts that we are going to analyse are using the register of football terms. With that being said, we have to expect the language to be a mixture of formal and informal. We can see the usage of the formal language when talking about a particular position that a former or current football player was/is playing and the informal language is usually used in dialogues between Zlatan and some other characters from the autobiography.

According to Mona Baker (Baker, 1992 p. 16), Register is a variety of language that a language user considers appropriate to a specific situation.

Registers are similar to one another in some aspects, but also differ in others. According to Mona Baker (Baker, 1992, p. 16), those differences arise from several factors, such as:

1. Field of discourse
2. Tenor of discourse
3. Mode of discourse

According to Mona Baker (Baker, 1992, p. 16). Field of discourse is an abstract term for 'what is going on' that is relevant to the speaker's choice of linguistic items.

“For example, linguistic choices will vary according to whether the speaker is taking part in a football match or discussing football; making love or discussing love; making a political speech or discussing politics; performing an operation or discussing medicine.”

This can be applied to the work we are analyzing because, as we mentioned before, the register discussed here is the one related to football and the language in it is adjusted to that particular field of interest.

We will also see a lot of cursing and informal language and according to Mona Baker, this belongs to the Tenor of discourse, namely: An abstract term for the relationships between the people taking part in the discourse. (Baker, 1992 p. 16)

We are aware of this from everyday life because we adjust our language according to the relationship that we have with a particular individual. We can differentiate talking with our parents, our teachers or our close friends and for each of these instances, we use a different discourse. (Baker, 1992 p. 16)

We have to keep this in mind while analyzing these three works because we have to be aware of the relationship Zlatan had with the individuals he is talking to.

1. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

After explaining the theoretical part and the plot summary, we should dive into the comparative analysis of the two translations. As I have mentioned before, the two translations analyzed will be the one in Bosnian and the one in the English language. Should there be some sentences or words which are completely opposite from one another, we will try to analyze them and find the solution with the help of the consultant who speaks the language of the original work, and that is Swedish.

This analysis will be done in a way that the two translations will be compared with each other, and afterwards we will try to determine which translation managed to be closer to the original work.

2. PROPER NAMES AND FOOTBALL TERMS

Since this book is a sort of a summary of Zlatan's life and football career, there are several names mentioned throughout the book, and we will see how they were translated by both Kadrić and Urbom respectively. This includes the names of famous football players, managers and agents, but also the names of Zlatan's family members.

Another important aspect will be the analysis of the football terms. The book is filled with them, namely describing the position of a football player or the way he played.

1. Proper names

First, we will take a look at the proper names, and the list is as it follows, in Bosnian and English respectively. This list is taken from the cast of characters ("U ulogama" in Bosnian).

The list of characters: Co Adriaanse, Aleksandar (Keki), Massimo Ambrosini, Micke Andersson, Roland Andersson (Ronald in Bosnian version, probably a typo), Mario Balotelli, Marco van Basten, Leo Beenhaaker, Txiki Begiristain, Hasse Borg, Fabio Cannavaro, Fabio Capello, Antonio Cassano, Tonny Flygare, Louis van Gaal, Italo Galbiati, Adriano Galliani, Gennaro Gattuso, Pep Guardiola, Helena, Thierry Henry, Andres Iniesta, Filippo Inzaghi, Jurka, Kaka, Ronald Koeman, Joan Laporta, Henke Larsson, Bengt Madsen, Danijel Majstorović, Roberto Mancini, Marco Materazzi, Hasse Mattisson, Maximilian, Maxwell, Olof Mellberg, Lionel Messi, Gudmundur Mete, Mido, Luciano Moggi, Massimo Moratti, Jose Mourinho, Pavel Nedved, Alessandro Nesta, Alexandre Pato, Andrea Pirlo, Mino Raiola, Robinho, Ronaldinho, Ronaldo, Cristiano Ronaldo, Sandro Rosell, Sanela, Sapko, Šefik, Thomas Sjoberg, Thijs Slegers, Rune Smith, John Steen

Olsen, Lilian Thuram, David Trezeguet, Rafael van der Vaart, Patrick Vieira, Christian Wilhemsson (Chippen), Vincent, Xavi, Gianluca Zambrotta, Alexander Ostlund.

As we can see, the majority of the characters that appear in this book are famous football players, managers, coaches or reporters. There are also Zlatan's family members and his wife and children. Both Kadrić and Urbom kept all the original names (except for the Roland-Ronald part). Besides those names, we have names which are much "closer" to us, in terms of language. Those are: Aleksandar (nicknamed Keki), Sapko, Šefik, Sanela and Jurka. (I decided not to put Danijel Majstorović here because he is also a football player from Sweden, even though his origin is from the Balkans).

In this case, the translators did the same job again, keeping the text the same as in the original, and keeping the Bosnian spelling intact, because we are talking about Zlatan's family members here. Some of the names, like Sanela or Jurka would be spelled the same in the English version anyways, but names like Šefik and Aleksandar would not.

2. Football terms and descriptions

We will take a look at the "list of characters" ("U ulogama") again, to try and compare how exactly did the translators describe some of those football players, and which one was on point.

We will start with *Massimo Ambrossini*.

Original text

Lagkapten i Milan. Mittfältare.

English

AC Milan team captain. Midfielder

Bosnian

kapiten ekipe Milan, centarfor.

First of all, we can see that the name is spelled differently. Urbom decided to go with the original name "AC Milan", while Kadrić decided to go with "Milan". The Bosnian translation is closer to the original, but both are right in their own respect.

Then we come to the third part, and that is the position which this player has played. There is a significant difference here, because in English translation we have "Midfielder", while in Bosnian

we have “centarfor” (centre forward in Bosnian - English-Bosnian Dictionary | Glosbe, 2020), (midfielder, 2020). Midfielder is a rather broad term when it comes to football because it can refer to many positions in the midfield like center, right or left. When it comes to the Bosnian one, centarfor is a position played in the attack, that is the final third of the field, in front of the opposing goalkeeper. If we google Massimo Ambrossini, we can see that he actually played in the middle⁶. In the original text we have the word *Mittfältare*, which means “midfielder”, making the English translation closer to the original text.

Then we move on to *Roland* (or *Ronald* in Bosnian version) *Andersson*.

Original text

Gammal fotbollsspelare och landslagsspelare. Min tränare första tiden i Malmö FF.

English

Former footballer and member of the Swedish national side. My coach when I joined Malmö FF.

Bosnian

stari fudbaler i reprezentativac, trener u Malmö FF-u u mojim počecima.

According to my informant the word “gammal” usually means “old”, but in this context it actually means someone who has not been playing football anymore or “retired”.

In the English version we have “former footballer”, while in the Bosnian one we have “stari fudbaler”. “Former” means someone who has retired, while “stari” may refer to both someone who has retired and someone who is just old. We can see that both versions are really close to the original text.

Furthermore, in the English version we have “member of the Swedish national side”, while the Bosnian simply states “reprezentativac”, without emphasizing which country did he represent. The

⁶ "Massimo Ambrosini - Player Profile". Transfermarkt.Com, 2021, <https://www.transfermarkt.com/massimo-ambrosini/profil/spieler/5818>.

original text has the word “*landslagsspelare*”, which, according to my informant means “member of the national side”, making the Bosnian version closer to the original text.

The English version states “My coach when I joined Malmo FF”, while the Bosnian version states “trener u Malmo FF-u u mojim počecima”. We can see that the English version has a possessive pronoun “my”, while the Bosnian has none. Kadrić also used the locative Bosnian case - “Malmo FF-u”.

Next one is *Pep Guardiola*⁷.

Original text

Gammal mittfältare, spelade i FC Barcelona. Min tränare i klubben.

English

Former midfielder, played for FC Barcelona. My coach at that club.

Bosnian

Stari centarfor u Barceloni. Moj trener u vrijeme kad sam igrao u tom klubu.

In the English translation we have “former midfielder”, meaning “an ex-football player who played in the midfield area, while in the Bosnian one, we have a similar translation as before. “Stari centarfor”, could mean both former and old football player, but “centarfor” refers to someone who has played in the attacking third, while Guardiola played his entire career in the midfield (centre forward in Bosnian - English-Bosnian Dictionary | Glosbe, 2020), (midfielder, 2020). The original text states “*Gammal mittfältare*”, which means “old(retired) midfielder”, making the English translation a bit closer to the original text. Furthermore, the original text states “*Min tränare i klubben*” and according to my informant that means “my coach at the club”, which makes the English translation closer to the original. The second sentences in the translations are similar, the only exception being that the Bosnian one translated it more descriptively. “Moj trener u vrijeme kad sam igrao u tom klubu”, meaning “My coach during the time I played at that club”, vs the English, more simplified version “My coach at that club”.

⁷ Pep Guardiola - Player profile. Transfermarkt.com. (2021). Retrieved 19 September 2021, from <https://www.transfermarkt.com/pep-guardiola/profil/spieler/5950>.

We move on to *Danijel Majstorović*.

Original text

Spelar i landslaget. Utlandsproffs, god vän.

English

Member of the Swedish national side, has played for various teams abroad. A good friend.

Bosnian

Švedski reprezentativac. Profesionalac. Dobar prijatelj.

The first part of the translation is similar in both cases, but the second part differs. In the English version we have “has played for various teams abroad”, while the Bosnian one simply states “profesionalac”, meaning “A professional”. In the original text we have the word “*Utlandsproffs*”, which, according to my informant means “a model professional”, thus making the Bosnian translation closer to the original.

Next one is *Alessandro Nesta*⁸.

Original text

Stjärnback i Milan. Världsmästare 2006.

English

Star defender with AC Milan. Won the World Cup with Italy in 2006.

Bosnian

Najbolji bek u Milanu. Dobitnik zlatne medalje na Svjetskom prvenstvu 2006. godine.

In the English translation we have “star defender”, while in the Bosnian one we have “najbolji bek”, meaning “the best left, right or center back”. In the original text we have the word “*Stjärnback*”, and according to my informant that means “star back”, thus making the Bosnian translation a bit closer to the original. Furthermore, the English translation states “Won the World

⁸ Alessandro Nesta - Player profile. Transfermarkt.com. (2021). Retrieved 19 September 2021, from <https://www.transfermarkt.com/alessandro-nesta/profil/spieler/4171>.

Cup with Italy in 2006.”, while in Bosnian one we have “Dobitnik zlatne medalje na Svjetskom prvenstvu 2006. godine”, meaning “A winner of the gold medal at the 2006 World Cup”. The English one is slightly closer to the original text in this regard, because in the original text we have the word “*Världsmästare*” and according to my informant that means “World Champion”. But the original text does not mention Italy at all, so in that regard, Bosnian translation is closer to the original text.

We move on to *Thomas Sjöberg*.

Original text

Gammal fotbollsspelare, och landslagsman. Andretränare under min första tid i Malmö

FF.

English

Former footballer and member of the Swedish national side. Assistant coach during my early days with Malmö FF.

Bosnian

Stari fudbaler i reprezentativac. Zamjenik trenera u početku moje karijere u Malmö FF-u.

The original text has the word “*landslagsman*” which means “member of the national side”, making the Bosnian translation closer to the original text because the English version states “member of the Swedish national side” and we can notice that the original text does not mention Sweden.

“Assistant coach” and “zamjenik trenera” are pretty much the same, and the rest of the sentence carries the same meaning, but the translators used a different style, according to their respective language. The English one states “during my early days with Malmö FF”, while the Bosnian states “u početku moje karijere u Malmö FF-u”, meaning “in the beginning of my career in Malmö FF”, which is pretty much the same, so we cannot actually differentiate these two translations and pinpoint which one is closer to the original text.

Next one is *Lilian Thuram*⁹.

Original text

Back. Spelade med mig i Juventus. Vunnit VM och EM med Frankrike.

English

Defender. Played with me at Juventus. Won the World Cup and European Championship with France.

Bosnian

Bek. Igrao sa mnom u Juventusu. S Francuskom reprezentacijom osvojio zlato na Svjetskom i Evropskom prvenstvu.

In the original text we have the word “*back*” which means “*back*” not “*defender*” as the English translation states, making the Bosnian translation closer to the original text in this regard because in the Bosnian translation we have the same word “*bek*”. The English one states “defender”, while the Bosnian states “bek”, meaning “left, right or center back” (defender - definition 2, 2021). If we take a look at Lilian Thuram’s career, we can see that he actually spent his entire career playing the two positions, right and center-back, thus making both of these translations a bit faulty. The English version is too broad, because, “defender” includes multiple positions in the defense, including the two Thuram played, but it is not precise enough, because he did not play in all 4 positions, just two. The second sentence is exactly the same “Played with me at Juventus” vs “Igrao sa mnom u Juventusu”, and the original text is exactly the same, according to my informant. The third sentence is the same in the original and both of the translations.

We move on to *Rafael van der Vaart*¹⁰.

Original text

Mittfältare under min tid i Ajax.

⁹ Lilian Thuram - Player profile. Transfermarkt.com. (2021). Retrieved 19 September 2021, from <https://www.transfermarkt.com/lilian-thuram/profil/spieler/3521>.

¹⁰ Rafael van der Vaart - Player profile. Transfermarkt.com. (2021). Retrieved 19 September 2021, from <https://www.transfermarkt.com/rafael-van-der-vaart/profil/spieler/4192>.

English

Midfielder during my time at Ajax.

Bosnian

centar u Ajaxu u vrijeme kad sam ja igrao u tom klubu.

The English translation states “midfielder”, while the Bosnian states “centar” (midfielder, 2020). In this case it is clear that the English version is closer to the original, because in the original text we have the word “*Mittfältare*” which means “midfielder”. Van der Vaart played in the midfield area where he was deployed as the either center-midfielder or attacking-midfielder. The Bosnian version, however, is not really close to the original since we have the word “Centar”, meaning “center” and that is a term in Bosnian language which refers to the center of the field, not any particular position. The rest of the sentence is pretty much the same, except for the fact that it is different stylistically. Bosnian version places “Ajax” near the start of the sentence, while the English one places it at the end (inversion). Bosnian version also has “tom klubu”, meaning “that club”, while the English one simply states “Ajax”, there is further explanation.

Next one is *Patrick Vieira*¹¹.

Original text

Mittfältare, spelade med mig i Juventus och i Inter. Superstjärna. Vän. Vinnarskalle. Vunnit EM och VM med Frankrike.

English

Midfielder, played with me at Juventus and Inter Milan. Superstar. Friend. Brilliant player. Won the World Cup and European Championship with France.

Bosnian

¹¹ Patrick Vieira - Player profile. Transfermarkt.com. (2021). Retrieved 19 September 2021, from <https://www.transfermarkt.com/patrick-vieira/profil/spieler/3183>.

Centar, igrali smo zajedno u Juventusu i Interu. Superzvijezda. Pobjednički duh. Osvojio Svjetsko prvenstvo i Evropsko prvenstvo s reprezentacijom Francuske.

In the English version we have the word “midfielder” which is technically correct and closer to the original text, because in the original text we have the word “*Mittfältare*”, which, as stated before, means “midfielder”. Vieira played as either center-midfielder or defensive-midfielder (midfielder, 2020).

When it comes to the Bosnian one, we have the word “centar”, which is wrong, because in Bosnian we use the word “centar” (meaning *center*) to describe the center of the football field, not the particular position. The second part of the sentence is identical, with the exception that the English version has a full name “Inter Milan”, while the Bosnian one simply states “Inter”. In this particular case, the Bosnian version is closer to the original because in the original text we also have “Inter”. The English translation further states “Friend. Brilliant player.”, while the Bosnian simply states “Pobjednički duh” (meaning *The Winning Spirit*). Now, the English one is closer to the original in one aspect since the original text states “*Vän*” meaning “friend” which is left out in the Bosnian translation, but the original text also has the word “*Vinnarskalle*” which, according to my informant is used in Swedish to describe someone who has a winning mentality, which is left out in the English translation and in the Bosnian one it is translated as “Pobjednički duh” or “The Winning Spirit” or in this case “Winning Mentality”, making the Bosnian translation closer in this regard.

The final sentence is identical in both English and Bosnian translation.

3 DIALOGUES AND CURSE WORDS

When it comes to the dialogues, they are often very challenging for translators. It is important to be able to deliver to the audience the emotional feeling of the situation, especially if we are talking about an autobiography. Dialogues often happen in heated moments and we, as translators, should be able to capture that moment and do our best to transfer it to the audience.

Curse words are yet another tool used by the authors to express their emotional state during some particular situation. We usually curse when our emotions get the better of us, and that makes the entire dialogue more heated. When it comes to the challenges regarding the translation of curse words, the toughest part, in my opinion, is finding the curse word equivalence in the target language. This is even more emphasized when we deal with the Balkans, since we have a rather imaginative way to express ourselves when we curse.

According to Merriam-Webster's dictionary, a curse word is *a profane or obscene oath or word*.¹²

Original text

Jag skrek: "Du har inga punkulor", och säkert värre saker än det, och så la jag till: "Du bajsar på dig för Mourinho. Du kan dra åt helvete!"

English

I yelled, "You haven't got any balls," and certainly even worse than that, and then I added,

*"You're shitting yourself in front of Mourinho. **You can go to hell!**" (p.33.)*

Bosnian

Vikao sam: "Ti nemaš muda", i sigurno još gore stvari, i onda sam još dodao:

*"Ti se usereš pred Mourinhom. **Idi u pičku materinu!**"*

¹² "Definition Of CURSE WORD". Merriam-Webster.Com, 2020, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/curse%20word>.

As I have mentioned before, when analyzing the language Zlatan uses, we should have in mind his origin and upbringing and also his fierce character and his hot head. In this particular case, both the translators managed to deliver to us the emotional state of Zlatan in the same way, and the translations are pretty much the same, except for the last part. In the last sentence of the English translation he says “*You can go to hell!*”, while the Bosnian one states “*Idi u pičku materinu!*”, which cannot be literally translated into the English language, but it is a curse word which basically mentions the addressee and his mother, and not in a good way. When it comes to the original text, we have the phrase “*Du kan dra åt helvete!*”, which according to my informant means “*you can go to hell*”, making the English translation closer to the original. In this particular case, the Bosnian translator put a bit more emphasis and spice on the things that Zlatan had said, in order to try and emulate the fierce emotional state that he was in. The English translator did an awesome job as well, but he toned it down a bit.

Original text

”Vad hade du på taket att göra?”

Det var inte: ”Stackars Zlatan.” Det var: ”Förbannade idiot som klättrat upp på ett tak, här har du en lusing.”

English

“What were you doing up on the roof?”

*There was no, “**poor Zlatan.**” It was: “Bloody idiot, climbing up onto a roof, **I’ll give you a hiding.**” (p. 36.)*

Bosnian

“Što si se penjao na krov?”, vrištala je od muke gledajući modricu.

*Nisam bio “**veliki Zlatan**” što se smije popeti na krov obdaništa. Ispao sam “blesavi idiot što se penje po krovovima”.*

This particular sentence starts off in the same way in both of the translations, “What were you doing up on the roof?”, and “Što si se penjao na krov?”, and are in line with the original text which states “Vad hade du på taket att göra?” and according to my informant the meaning is exactly the

same as in the original text. The Bosnian translation continues with the “*vrištala je od muke gledajući modricu.*” (meaning, “*she screamed in horror as she was looking at my bruise*”), which is completely left out in both the original text and the English translation.

Then again, we can see that the Bosnian translation has a part that is missing in the English one, and it states “*što se smije popeti na krov obdaništa*”, (meaning “*the one who can climb onto the roof of the nursery*”- referring to Zlatan.) The part about the nursery was also left out in the original text according to my informant, because the original text has the phrase “*klättrat upp på ett tak*”, which means “climbed to the roof”.

There is also the part which is missing in the Bosnian translation, and that is “I’ll give you a hiding.” According to my informant, the original text states “*här har du en lusing*”, which can be translated as “I will slap you” or “I will give you a hiding”, which makes the English translation closer to the original.

And the final sentence is pretty much the same in both of the translations.

The Bosnian translator added some things which were not present in the original, in order to emphasize the severe situation, while the English one kept it as close as possible to the original.

Original text

Min syster med drogerna hade ju brutit med mamma, och oss, och det kanske inte var helt oväntat efter alla bråken med knarket och behandlingshemmen. Men även min andra halvsyrra ströks från familjen. Morsan liksom bara raderade bort henne, och då vet jag knappt ens vad det gällde.

English

My half-sister with the drug problem had moved out early on, and was in and out of treatment clinics, but always went back on the shit. Finally, Mum broke off contact with her, or it was a mutual thing. I don't really know all the background information.

Bosnian

Polusestra koja je imala problem s drugom rano je otišla od kuće u dom za odvikavanje, ali se stalno vraćala s problemima, dok mama napokon nije s njom prekinula, možda i sestra, ne znam tačno sve detalje te historije.

The first thing that can be noticed here is that the Bosnian translation has one big sentence, while the English one split that one sentence into three smaller ones.

The second noticeable thing is the way both translators dealt with the whole issue of drugs. In the English translation we have “but always went back on the shit”, while the Bosnian translation states “ali se stalno vraćala s problemima”, (meaning, *but she always came back with the problems*), which is pretty similar except for the last word. The English translator puts a bit more emphasis by saying “shit”, while the Bosnian one toned it down just a bit, by simply stating “problems”. In this particular case, the Bosnian translation is closer to the original text because in the original text we have “*alla bråken med knarket och behandlingshemmen*” and according to my informant the meaning is closer to “*she kept coming back with the problems*”.

In the final part we have “I don’t really know all the background information”, vs “ne znam tačno sve detalje te historije”, (meaning, *I don’t really know all the details of their history*). Both the translators managed to transfer the overall emotional feeling of the situation, and the differences were stylistic, depending on their individual language. For example, the Bosnian version has a hidden subject, while the English one has a clear “I”, and the English translation states “all the background information”, while the Bosnian one states “sve detalje te historije”, (*all the details of their history*). In this case, my informant says that this part “*och då vet jag knappt ens vad det gällde*” roughly translates to “*I don’t even know what was that about*” and we can see that both translations are close to the original based on meaning.

Original text

I Balkan var det mer: ”Jag ska knulla din morsa i häcken.” Det var galna jugoslaver som storrökte och slängde skor omkring sig och jag tänkte: Underbart, precis som hemma. Här trivs jag!

English

At Balkan it was more like: "I'll do your mum up the arse." They were mental Yugoslavians who smoked like chimneys and flung their boots about, and I thought, "Great, just like at home. I love it here!"

Bosnian

U Balkanu je to zvučalo mnogo grublje: "Jebat ću ti mater u pičku." To su bili stari Jugoslaveni, s cigarom u ustima, bacali su cipele na nas i psovali a ja sam mislio: Predivno, isto kao kod kuće. Ovdje mi je super! (p. 49)

Throughout these dialogues and encounters, we continue to see Zlatan's origin. (he appreciates it more when someone swears at him, rather than being praised for almost everything by the Swedes.)

In this case, both translators did a good job in transmitting the overall emotional feeling of the situation, and the translations are very close to each other in terms of meaning. In the first sentence in English, we have "it was more like", compared to "je to zvučalo mnogo grublje" (meaning, "that sounded much rougher"), so the Bosnian translator tried to emphasize the situation a bit.

The next sentence is basically a common curse in the Balkans "Jebat ću ti mater u pičku" (the literal meaning is too much), and the English translator did the best he could with this translation. I think that in both cases the emotion is stated to the fullest, with a subjective feeling that the Bosnian one is slightly better because we know that Zlatan and the people from the Balkans are more likely to swear in this particular way. In the original text we have "Jag ska knulla din morska i häcken" and according to my informant the meaning is "I will fuck your mom in the arse" which makes the Bosnian translation a bit closer to the original because the English version is toned-down a bit because the curse word is left out and replaced with the verb "do".

Another difference is that in Bosnian translation we have "stari" (meaning "old"), while the English one states "mental". In the original text we have the word "galna" which roughly translates to "crazy", according to my informant. Another difference is that the Bosnian one simply states ("s cigarom u ustima"), meaning ("with a cigarette in their mouth"), while the English one emphasizes it a bit ("who smoked like chimneys") and in the original text we have the phrase "som storrökte" and according to my informant this means "smoked heavily", which makes the English

translation a bit closer to the original text. We can notice that the English version has a pronoun “who”, which is left out in the Bosnian one due to the syntax of the language. This can also be looked at as an ellipsis, because the sentence could sound like this: “To su bili stari Jugoslaveni, koji su bili sa cigarom u ustima...”.

The Bosnian one also has “i psovali” (meaning “*and they cursed*”), while that part is left out in the English version. The rest is pretty much the same. In the original text this part “i psovali” is left out too, which makes the English version closer to it.

Original text

”Hockey är mycket bättre, era förbannade idioter! Jag ska bli hockeyproffs! Gå och dränk er!”

English

*”**Hockey is way better, you arseholes! I’m gonna be a hockey pro! Get bent!***

Bosnian

*”Puno je bolje **igrati hokej, budale idiotske. Ja ću postati profesionalac u hokeju, kunem se ... jebite se svi!***

To kick things off, Bosnian version has an inversion, because the subject “hockey” is in the last place, while in the English one and in the original text the subject is in the first place. Furthermore, the Bosnian version has a verb “igrati” (meaning “*to play*”), while the English one and the original text do not have it. The curse word is different again, because in the English one we have “arseholes”, while in the Bosnian one we have “budale idiotske” (the literal translation would be “*moronic idiots*”) and in the original text we have “*förbannade idioter*” and according to my informant this means “*stupid idiots*”. This makes the Bosnian translation closer to the original text. “I’m gonna be a hockey pro!” is pretty much the same as “Ja ću postati profesionalac u hokeju, kunem se”, with the difference that in Bosnian version we have “kunem se” (meaning “*I swear*”), which is left out in the English one. In the original text we have “*Jag ska bli hockeyproffs!*” which means “*I will be a hockey pro*” and that makes the English translation closer to the original text. We can notice that in this case the English version used an informal “I’m gonna”, instead of the

formal “I am going to”. I think that this is the correct choice since we are talking about a moment when young Zlatan has a hissy fit and it is more likely that he used informal language.

Then again we can see the difference in the curse words. The English one states “Get bent!”, while the Bosnian has “jebite se svi!” (meaning, “*fuck you all*”). In the original text we have an interesting phrase “*Gå och dränk er!*” and according to my informant the rough translation would be “*Go and drown yourselves*”. Since neither Bosnian nor English language have a similar phrase, both translators did the best job possible to translate it and deliver the message. According to my informant, the actual meaning of this phrase would be closer to something like “Drop dead” or “Fuck you all”. Thus far we can notice that the cursing in the Balkans is much more “juicier” than the cursing in the English language.

Original text

”Vilka fan är ni? Komma och snacka om psykiatrisk hjälp? Ni borde säkert in på psyket hela bunten. Men min son är det inget fel på, han är finaste killen, far åt helvete allihop!”

English

*“Who the hell are you? Coming and talking about **psychiatric help**? You’re the ones who ought to be in the **nuthouse**, the whole lot of you. But there’s nothing wrong with my son, **he’s a fine lad, you can all go to hell!**” (p. 57)*

Bosnian

*“Ko ste pa vi da osuđujete moje dijete na **psihijatriju**? Vi biste trebali, vi biste trebali biti zatvoreni na **psihijatriji**. Šta je s vama, mome dijetu nije ništa, **on je najbolje dijete na svijetu, gonite se u materinu svi odreda!**”*

The first difference is that the English translation has two interrogative sentences, while the Bosnian translation has one. The original text has two interrogative sentences as well, making the English translation closer in this aspect.

Furthermore, the English translation states “Who the hell are you?”, while the Bosnian one has a slightly toned down version of that sentence, stating “Ko ste pa vi”, and the meaning of that is

closer to “who do you think you are”. In the original text, according to my informant we have the phrase *”Vilka fan är ni?”*, which means “who the hell are you?”, making it identical to the English translation.

Then we have “You’re the ones who ought to be in the nuthouse”, compared to “Vi biste trebali, vi biste trebali biti zatvoreni na psihijatriji”. In the original text we have *“Ni borde säkert in på psyket hela bunten”*, and according to my informant, this means *“All of you should go to the psychiatry”*. In this case, the Bosnian translation has a repetition, unlike the original text and the English translation, “Vi biste trebali, vi biste trebali” (meaning *“You should be”*), and this could be done in order to emphasize the feelings of a hurt parent who tried to defend his child. Furthermore, the English translation uses “nuthouse”, while the Bosnian sticks with “psihijatriji” (*psychiatry*) and the original text uses “psyket” which means “psychiatry”, making the Bosnian translation closer in this aspect.

The English translation uses “he’s a fine lad”, while the Bosnian one states “on je najbolje dijete na svijetu”, (meaning, *“he is the best kid in the world”*), both of those carrying a similar meaning and in the original text we have *“han är finaste killen”* and according to my informant this means “he is the nicest kid”, which makes the Bosnian translation closer to the original.

And to sum things up, we have the usage of cursing again. “you can all go to hell” in English, compared to “gonite se u materinu svi odreda”, (the sentence cannot be literally translated, but the curse word is about the addressee's mother). In the original text we have *“far åt helvete allihop”* and according to my informant this roughly means *“all of you can go to hell”*, making the English translation closer to the original. Even though the English translation is closer to the original, the Bosnian is equally as good, because in the Balkan’s area you are much more likely to hear someone curse like this, rather than say “go to hell” or something similar.

Original text

Jag menar, varenda jävel passar i den eller den situationen och säger det och det i det läget. Men jag ... jag kom från en annan planet. Jag bara öste på med hela galna Rosengårdsgrejen.

English

*I mean, any **bastard will make a pass** in this or that scenario and will say a given thing in a particular situation. But me ... **I came from another planet**. I just kept laying it on with all the mental Rosengård stuff.* (p. 65).

Bosnian

*Mislim da se svako od nas uklapa u ovo ili ono stanje, govori to i to u datom momentu. Ali ja... **ja kao da sam pao s Marsa**. Ja sam samo sipao iz sebe svoje Rosengard zajebancije.*

The first difference that we can notice is that the English translation has a subject “I”, while the Bosnian translation has a hidden subject, which is implied by the word “mislim”, (translated to “I think” in English). Even though it is just a single word in Bosnian, it has a meaning of two words in English. In the original text we also have a subject “Jag”, meaning “I”, making it closer to the English translation.

The second difference is that the English translation is written in the future tense “any bastard will make a pass”, while the Bosnian one is written in the present tense “se svako od nas uklapa u ovo ili ono stanje”, (meaning, “*every single one of us is able to fit in this or that situation*”). According to my informant, the Bosnian translation is closer to the original text because in the original we have “*varenda jävel passar i den eller den situationen*” and does not use the Future Tense. Furthermore, the English translator uses the word “bastard”, while the Bosnian one toned it down a bit by stating “svako od nas” (meaning “*everyone or every single one of us*”). The meaning is similar, but the words are different. In the original text we have the word “*jävel*” and according to my informant this means “bastard”, making the English version closer to the original text.

Furthermore, in the English translation we have “I came from another planet”, and the Bosnian one states “ja kao da sam pao s Marsa” (roughly translated as, “*I acted as if I had fallen from Mars*”). In the original text we have “*jag kom från en annan planet*” and according to my informant the meaning is exactly the same as in the English translation (“I came from another planet”).

And in the end, we can see the usage of the curse word. The English translation simply states “stuff”, while the Bosnian translator decided to translate that as “zajebancije”, (meaning is closer

to “trickery”). In the original text we have the word “*Rosengårdsgrejen*” and according to my informant it means “*Rosengard thing*”. Both of the translators did a good job in this sentence, and both of them are close to the original in their own respect.

Original text

Det var som om jag drömde och jag började spela med en helt sjuk kraft: Shit, pappa är här! Det är inte klokt. Titta här, ville jag skrika. Titta här! Spana in! Din son är världens grymmaste spelare!

English

*It was as if I was dreaming, and I started to play with **incredible strength**. **Shit, Dad's here!** This is mental. Look at me, Dad, I wanted to yell. Look at me! Check it out! **Your son is the most amazing, awesome player!** (p. 68)*

Bosnian

*Bojao sam se da je to san i počeo sam igrati **luđakom snagom**: **Jebote, čale je ovdje!** To nije normalno. Gledaj!, htio sam da viknem. Pazi ovo! Dobro gledaj! **Tvoj sin je najbolji fudbaler na svijetu!***

In the English translation we have “incredible strength”, while in the Bosnian one we have “*luđakom snagom*” (meaning “*with the strength of a crazy person*”). The meaning is pretty much the same, but it is adjusted according to the readers of the particular translation. The original text has the phrase “*helt sjuk kraft*” and according to my informant this roughly means “sick strength”, making both of those translations accurate but neither is exactly like the original text.

Then we have the curse word “Shit”, which is translated to Bosnian as “Jebote” (meaning “*Fuck*”). Again, the meaning is pretty much the same, but it is much more likely for someone to hear a person from the Balkan’s yell “fuck” when they are excited, rather than “shit”, so the both

translations are accurate, but the English one is exactly the same as the original because in the original we have the same word “*shit*”.

Furthermore, in the English translation we have “Dad”, while the Bosnian states “ćale” (which is closer to “*pops*”). In the original text we have the word “*pappa*” which means “*dad*”.

At the very end we have “Your son is the most amazing, awesome player!” in English, while the Bosnian translation states “Tvoj sin je najbolji fudbaler na svijetu!”, (meaning, “*Your son is the best player in the world!*”), which is quite similar in meaning, but the style of these two translators determined their choice, and both of them were accurate and close to the original in their own respect and the original text states “*Din son är världens grymmaste spelare!*”. According to my informant the meaning of this phrase is “Your son is the most brutal player.”, the key word here being “brutal” because according to the informant, this means “the best”, and is not to be confused with him being a tough or violent football player.

Original text

Framför allt minns jag Leo Beenhakker. Han lutade sig fram och sa: ”If you fuck with me I’ll fuck you two times back”, och alltså, det impade på mig.

English

*The main thing I remember is **Leo Beenhakker**. He leaned forward and said, “**If you fuck with me I’ll fuck you two times back,**” and – well, that made an impression on me.*

Bosnian

*Prije svih zapamtio sam **Lea Beenhakker**a. Nagnuo se naprijed i rekao: “**If you fuck with me I’ll fuck you two times back**”, to se odnosilo na mene. (p.81)*

The most interesting thing about this dialogue is the fact that the Bosnian translator decided to translate the phrase to English, instead of Bosnian. We can see that he actually kept the entire sentence “If you fuck with me I’ll fuck you two times back”, and we can see that the both translators kept the same phrase as in the original text. Furthermore the English translation states “well, that made an impression on me”, while the Bosnian one states “to se odnosilo na mene” (meaning, “*that referred to me*”), which is different from the original in this particular case because

the original text states “*impade på mig*”. According to my informant this means “it made an impact on me”, making the English translation closer to the original text in this regard.

Original text

Annars kan det gå illa i Ajax ... bullshit, bullshit! Expressen intervjuade till och med en psykolog som menade att jag borde söka hjälp, och jag reagerade direkt förstås: Vem fan är han? Vad vet den figuren?

English

*Otherwise things could go badly at Ajax ... **Bullshit. Bullshit!** The Expressen tabloid even interviewed a psychologist who said I ought to seek help, and of course my immediate reaction was, **who the fuck is he? What does he know?** (p. 93)*

Bosnian

*Inače će biti teško u Ajaxu... **bulshit, bulshit!** Expressen je napravio razgovor s psihologom, koji je mislio da trebam pomoć, na šta sam ja, naravno, odmah reagovao: **Ko je ovaj, dodavola? Šta zna ova figura?***

The first noticeable thing is that the Bosnian translator decided to keep the English word “bullshit” for some reason, but the word itself was misspelled “bulshit”. We cannot be sure why he chose to do so, but we can check the original text which has the same word but it is spelled “*bullshit*”, making the English translation closer in the aspect.

Furthermore, in the English translation we have “The Expressen tabloid”, while the Bosnian translator cut it short by stating “Expressen”. In this particular case, the Bosnian translation is closer to the original because in the original text we also have the name “*Expressen*”, without mentioning that it was a tabloid.

Then we come to the curse word. In the cases we have analyzed before, it was usually the Bosnian translator who decided to spice things up a bit, but in this particular case, the English translator used a curse word that is a bit harsher. In the English translation we have “who the fuck is he?”, while the Bosnian one states “Ko je ovaj, dođavola”, (meaning “*Who the hell is this guy?*”). Even though they made a different choice, they were both close to the original text in their own respect. The original text states “*Vem fan är han?*” and according to the informant this means “*Who the hell is he?*”.

To sum things up, we have another difference in the last sentence. In the English translation we have “What does he know”, while the Bosnian translation states “Šta zna ova figura?”, (the meaning is closer to “*What does this figure think he knows?*”). In the original text we have “*Vad vet den figuren?*” and according to my informant this means “What does that figure know?”.

We can see that there is a noun “figura” (“*figure*”), in the Bosnian translation and in the original text, but is missing in the English translation, making the Bosnian translation closer to the original text in this case.

Original text

”Fan, Hasse, kan du inte köpa tillbaks mig?” ”Köpa tillbaks dig? Menar du allvar?” ”Ta mig härifrån. Jag pallar inte med det.” ”Kom igen, Zlatan, det finns inga pengar till det, det begriper du väl. Du måste ha tålamod.”

English

“**Shit**, Hasse, can’t you buy me back?”

“**Buy you back? Are you serious?**”

“Get me out of here. I can’t take it.”

“Come on, Zlatan, there’s no money for that, you must realise that.

You’ve got to be patient.” (p. 104)

Bosnian

“**Jebiga**, Hasse, pa zar me ne možeš **ponovo** kupiti?”

“**Ne misliš valjda ozbiljno? Da te vratimo nazad?**”

“Vadi me odavde! Ja ne mogu više!”

“Ma daj Zlatane, nemamo mi tih para, valjda znaš i sam. Moraš biti strpljiv!”

This dialogue starts with a curse word. In the English version we have “Shit”, while the Bosnian one states “Jebiga” and the original text has the word “*fan*” and according to my informant this means “damn” or “damn it”, so we can see that both translations are closer to the original text but neither is identical.

Another difference is that we have an adverb in the Bosnian translation “ponovo”, (meaning “*again*”), which is not present in the English translation nor in the original text which has the phrase “*köpa tillbaks mig*”, which, according to the informant means “*buy me back*”, making the English translation closer to the original text in this case.

Furthermore we can see that there is an inversion in the Bosnian translation, compared to the English. The English translation states “Buy you back? Are you serious?”, while the Bosnian version states “Ne misliš valjda ozbiljno? Da te vratimo nazad?” (the order of the sentences is reversed compared to the original). The original text is the same as the English translation “*Köpa tillbaks dig? Menar du allvar?*”.

Original text

”Vad fan är det här? Jag har sämst kontrakt i hela klubben.” ”Vad säger du? ” Han spelade dum. ”Och var är mina tio procent?” ”Vi har lagt dem i en försäkring i England.”

English

*“**What the hell is this?** I’ve got the worst contract in the entire club.”*

“What do you mean?”

He was playing dumb.

“And where’s my ten per cent?”

“We invested it in an insurance policy in England. (p. 105)

Bosnian

“Šta ovo znači, jebote? Imam najgori ugovor u klubu!”

“O čemu ti to pričaš?”, pravio se lud.

“Gdje je mojih deset posto?”

“Osigurali smo ih u Engleskoj.”

We will start things off with the curse word. In the English translation, we have the word “hell”, while the Bosnian translation states “jebote”, (meaning “*fuck*”) and the original text again has the word “*fan*”, which we described in another example. In this particular case, we can tell that both translators did a good job, since they made a correct choice, and were close to the original text. Another difference is that the sentence is slightly different in the Bosnian translation, but it carries the same meaning. It states “Šta ovo znači, jebote?” (meaning, “*What the fuck does this mean?*”), compared to the English version “What the hell is this?”. In this particular case, both of the translations are close to the original, which states “*Vad fan är det här?*”, and according to my informant this means “What the hell is this?”.

Another noticeable difference is this sentence “He was playing dumb” in the English version, and “pravio se lud”, (the literal meaning would be closer to “*he was acting crazy*” but the actual meaning is exactly the same “he was playing dumb”) in the Bosnian one. In the original text we have “*Han spelade dum*” and according to my informant the meaning is exactly the same as in the both translations. We can safely say that both translators did a good job again. Namely, the Bosnian translation carries the exact same meaning as the English one, even though the literal translation is slightly different.

When it comes to the question posed in the English translation “Who the hell is this?”, it was a rhetorical one, and according to (Baker, 1992 p. 230) “For instance, rhetorical questions such as *Isn't that an ugly building?* (instead of “This is an ugly building”) or *How can you be so cruel?* (instead of “You are very cruel”) are regularly used in English to express a range of emotive meaning such as indignation, shock, and amusement. (COBUILD English Grammar; Sinclair, 1990: 205-6).

Original text

”Men vad fan Zlatan”, fräste han och då bet jag ifrån, jag menar, vad är det? Sova klockan nio? ”Om du öppnar munnen igen slänger jag ut din säng genom fönstret.” Det var tydligen en bra replik, inte bara för att vi bodde på tjugonde våningen, utan för att det fick effekt.

English

“**What the fuck, Zlatan,**” he hissed and then I snapped, I mean, what is this? Asleep at nine o’clock? “If you open your mouth again I’m going to chuck your bed out of the window.” That was a good line – not just **because we were on the 20th floor**, but also because it got **results**. (p. 115)

Bosnian

“**Ma, dođavola, Zlatane**”, prasnuo je, ja sam uzvratio isto bijesno. Šta je? Spavaš u devet?
“Ako samo još jednom otvoriš usta izbacit ću taj tvoj krevet kroz prozor.” Izgleda da je to bila dobra upadica ne zbog toga **što smo bili na sedmom spratu** već zbog toga što je imalo **efekta**.

We start off with a curse word in this case. In the English translation we have “What the fuck, Zlatan”, while the Bosnian translation states “Ma, dođavola, Zlatane”, (meaning is closer to “*Oh, c’mon now Zlatan*”, or “*Oh, what the hell Zlatan*”) and the original text states “*Men vad fan Zlatan*” and according to my informant the meaning is “What the hell Zlatan”, making the Bosnian translation a bit closer to the original text. We can see that this time the Bosnian translator decided to be a bit milder in his translation, but we can conclude that both of them did a good job with this particular sentence.

The biggest difference in this paragraph is the fact that the English translation states “because we were on the 20th floor”, while the Bosnian one states “što smo bili na sedmom spratu”, (meaning “*because we were on the 7th floor*”). According to my informant the English translation is correct in this case, because the original text states “*inte bara för att vi bodde på tjugonde våningen*”, the key word here being “tjugonde”, which means “twentieth”. We cannot be sure what was the reason for this mistake by the Bosnian translator. And the final difference is that in the English version we have “results”, while in the Bosnian one we have “efekta”, (meaning “*effect*”) and the

original text also uses the word “*effekt*” making the Bosnian translation of this particular word closer to the original text.

Original text

Det var min debut i Champions League – jag hade bara spelat i kvalet tidigare – och det var häftigt förstås. Champions League var en gammal dröm och det var ett jävla tryck på arenan.

English

This was my debut in the **Champions League – I’d only played in a qualifier before** – and of course that was great. The Champions League was a long-time dream of mine, and the **pressure in the stadium was intense.** (p. 116)

Bosnian

Bio je to moj debi u **Ligi šampiona – nikad prije nisam igrao u kvalifikacijama** – to je bilo tako, moj san se napokon ostvario, a **atmosfera** na stadionu je bila **jebeno nevjerovatna.**

The first noticeable difference is in the capital letters. According to the rules of the English grammar, we have both capital letters in the name “Champions League”, while in the Bosnian version we can see that the word is capitalized and the second one is not “Ligi šampiona”, while the original text has the English version “*Champions League*”.

The biggest difference, however, is the mistake by the Bosnian translator. Namely, in the English version we have “I’d only played in a qualifier before”, while the Bosnian one states “- nikad prije nisam igrao u kvalifikacijama”, (meaning, “*I have never played in the qualifiers before*”), which is incorrect here, because he clearly states that he has played in the qualifiers and we can see that when comparing to the original text, which states “*jag hade bara spelat i kvalet tidigare*” and according to the informant the meaning is exactly the same as in the English version “*I’d only played in a qualifier before*”.

Another noticeable difference is the fact that the Bosnian translation has a curse word, while the English one completely omits it. Bosnian translator decided to use “jebeno nevjerovatna”, (meaning “*fucking amazing*”), to describe the atmosphere in the stadium, and he also used the word “atomsfera” (=“*atmosphere*”), while the English version states “pressure in the stadium was intense”. However, the original text states “*jävla tryck*”, the key word here being **jävla** which, according to the informant means “*fucking*”, making the Bosnian translation closer to the original text.

Original text

Din statistik är skräp! Jag borde be honom dra åt helvete. Sälja mina bilar? Vad hade han med dem att göra? Han gick för långt, inget snack om det. Men ändå, han hade rätt, hade han inte?

English

Your** stats are crap! I should have **told him to go to hell**. Sell my cars? What did they have to do with him? He was going too far, no doubt about it. But still, **he was right, wasn't he?

Bosnian

Moja statistika smeće?! Trebao sam ga zamoliti da ide dodavola. Da prodam svoja kola? Moja statistika ravna nuli?! Da prodam satove i počnem naporno trenirati. Šta je on imao s njima? Otišao je predaleko, nema sumnje o tome. Ali ipak, bio je u pravu, da li je? (p. 129)

The first noticeable difference is that in the English version Zlatan is talking to himself in the second person “Your stats are crap!”, while in the Bosnian one he is talking in the first person “Moja statistika smeće?!” (meaning “*My stats are crap?!*”). This was just a matter of choice and it did not change the meaning of the sentence. In the original text we have “*Din statistik är skräp!*” and according to the informant this means “*Your stats are trash*”, making the English translation a bit closer in this regard.

The second difference is the verb “talk” in the English version, compared to the verb “zamoliti” (meaning “ask”) in the Bosnian one and in the original text we have the verb “be” which according to my informant means “ask”. In this particular case, the Bosnian translation is closer to the original. Then we come to the curse word, “go to hell” in the English version, compared to “da ide dođavola” in the Bosnian one and “*helvete*” in the original which means “hell”. It is exactly the same in both translations and in the original text.

Then we can see the repetition in the Bosnian version which is not present in the English translation. Namely, the sentence “Moja statistika smeće!?” was slightly rephrased into “Moja statistika ravna nuli!?”, and I think that this was done in order to emphasize the emotional state of disbelief that Zlatan experienced in that moment. In the original text we do not have the repetition, but the author moves to the next part. Even though the English version is closer to the original, I still think that this was the right choice.

The final difference is in the last sentence. In my opinion, everything is good except for the last part which seems to be literally translated from the original version in the Bosnian translation, making the sentence weird-looking. In the English version we have a rhetorical question “he was right, wasn’t he?”, while in the Bosnian one we have a normal question, and that was not the point “bio je u pravu, da li je?” (meaning is closer to “*he was right, or was he?*”). In the original text we have “*han hade rätt, hade han inte?*” and according to my informant this means “he was right, wasn’t he?”, making it exactly the same as in the English translation. Furthermore, this is a very weird construction in Bosnian language, and I think that the right choice would be “bio je u pravu, zar ne”?, which is identical to the English version and closer to the original.

Original text

Jag började åka runt med klubbens tråkiga jävla Fiat Stilo, och jag la undan min guldlocka. Jag satte på mig ett fult Nikeur istället och gick omkring i träningskläder igen.

English

*I started driving around in the club’s **lame little Fiat Stilo**, and I put away **my gold watch**. I put on an ugly Nike watch instead, and went round in tracksuits again. (p. 129)*

Bosnian

*Počeo sam voziti **dosadni jebeni FIAT STILO** koji je bio u vlasništvu kluba i čak sam odložio svoje zlatne satove. Stavio sam neki ružni Nike sat i počeo hodati okolo odjeven u trenerku.*

The first noticeable difference is the absence of the subject in the Bosnian translation. The subject is hidden and can be retrieved from the context. Namely, we have the auxiliary verb “sam” (meaning “am”), and since we have that verb, it must be complemented by the first person subject, which is hidden in this particular case. In the original text and the English translation we have the subject “Jag” and “I”, respectively.

Then we come to the description of the car he started to drive. In the English version, the adjectives used were “lame” and “little”, while in the Bosnian one, we have “dosadni” (meaning “boring”), and “jebeni” (meaning “fucking”). In the original text we have the words “tråkiga jävla” and according to my informant they are translated as “boring” and “fucking”, making the Bosnian translation closer to the original text.

Then we can see the name of the car which is, for some reason, written in all caps in the Bosnian version, while in the original text and in the English translation we have “Fiat Stillo”. Another noticeable difference is the usage of the singular “my gold watch” in the English version and “*min guldklocka*”, which, according to the informant means “my gold watch”, compared to the “svoje zlatne satove” (meaning “my gold watches”), making the English translation closer to the original text. The difference in meaning is noticeable, but it does not change the context that much, and it is not so important for the entire paragraph, in my opinion.

Original text

”Du gillar när folk säger till dig att du är bäst va?” ”Jo, kanske.” ”Men det stämmer inte. Du är inte bäst. Du är skit. Du är nothing. Du måste jobba hårdare.” ”Det är du som är skit. Du bara gnäller. Du borde träna själv.” ”Go fuck yourself.” ”Fuck you.”

English

“You like it when people tell you you’re the best, don’t you?”

“Yeah, maybe.”

*“But that’s not true. You’re not the best. **You’re shit.** You’re nothing. You’ve got to work harder.”*

*“**You’re the one who’s shit.** All you do is nag. You should train yourself.”*

*“**Go fuck yourself.**”*

*“**Fuck you.**”*

Bosnian

“Voliš kad ljudi kažu da si najbolji, ha?”

“Pa, možda.”

*“Ali to nije istina. Nisi najbolji. **Sranje.** Ti si niko i ništa! Moraš raditi više!”*

*“**Ti si šupak.** Samo cviliš. Trebao bi ti sam trenirati.”*

*“**Idi, jebi se!**”*

*“**Jebi se ti!**” (p. 130)*

We finally come to a dialogue that is filled with curse words. The first one we are going to analyze is the sentence “You’re shit” in the English version, compared to “Sranje.” in the Bosnian one. We can clearly see that the English version has a clear cut subject “You”, while the Bosnian one has a single word which comprises the entire sentence “Sranje” (meaning “*shit*”). They both carry the same meaning, but the difference is that the Bosnian translator tried to transmit the entire message by a single word, and it was an ok choice, but I would personally use the same style as in the English version, which is also closer to the original, because in the original version we have “*Du är skit*” and according to my informant this means “You are shit”, making it identical to the English translation.

Then we come to the sentence “You’re the one who’s shit.” in the English translation, compared to “Ti si šupak.” (meaning “*You are an asshole.*”) in the Bosnian one and “*Det är du som är skit*”

in the original text, which means, according to my informant “*You are the one who’s shit*”, making it identical to the English translation. In this particular case, even though the choice is different (“*sranje*” compared to “*šupak*”), the Bosnian translator did a good job because you are much more likely to hear someone in the Balkans say “*Ti si šupak*” (“*You are an asshole*”), rather than “*Ti si sranje*” (“*You are shit*”) in this context.

And the final curse words are present in the last two sentences. “Go fuck yourself.” and “Fuck you.”, compared to “*Idi, jebi se!*” and “*Jebi se ti*”. In this particular case, the meaning is exactly the same and even the choice of words and the structure itself is exactly the same. This is one of the rare cases where we can see that English and Bosnian have the same structure and the same choice of words and both of them are correct, but the English version is identical to the original text because the original text states “*Go fuck yourself.*” “*Fuck you*”.

Original text

”Klart han bytte ut dig. Du var sämst på plan. Du var skit.” ”Vad fan säger du?” ”Du var värdelös. Du borde ha hamnat på bänken tidigare.” ”Du”, sa jag. ”Vadå?” ”Du kan dra åt helvete. Både du och tränaren.”

English

*“Of course he took you off. You were the worst one on the pitch. **You were shit.**”*

*“**What the hell are you saying?**”*

“You were useless. He should’ve put you on the bench sooner.”

*“**Listen,**” I said.*

“What?”

*“You can go to **hell**. Both you and the coach.”*

Bosnian

*“Naravno da te je zamijenio. Ti si bio najgori. **Baš si đubre.**”*

*“**Šta si rekao?**”*

“Niste se pokazali, ti si bio loš. Trebao si ranije završiti na klupi.

*“**Ti**”, rekao sam.*

“Šta ja?”

*“Ti, možeš se nositi **dođavola**. I ti i trener.”* (p. 138)

We start off with the sentence with a curse word in it. Namely “You were shit” in the English version, compared to “Baš si đubre” and “*Du var skit*” which according to my informant means “*You were shit*”, making it exactly the same as in the English translation. The first noticeable difference is the tense. In the English version and in the original text, the translator used past simple tense, while the Bosnian translator went with the present simple. The main difference is that the past simple tense, in this case, refers to a specific point or a situation in the past, whereas present simple tense refers to a permanent characteristic of an individual.

Another noticeable difference is the sentence “What the hell are you saying” in the English version, “*Vad fan säger du?*” in the original text and “Šta si rekao?” (meaning “*What did you say?*”) in the Bosnian one. According to my informant, the Swedish text is translated as “*What the hell are you saying?*”, making it identical to the English translation.

Then we have the sentence “Listen,” I said.” in the English translation, compared to “Ti”, rekao sam” in the Bosnian one and “*Du*”, “*sa jag.*” in the original text. The main difference is that the English translator decided to use the verb “listen”, whereas the Bosnian version and the original text used the pronoun “Ti” and “*Du*”, respectively. Both of them mean “*You*”. Even though translators chose a different word class, both of the translations are correct and they properly transmit the message but the Bosnian translation is closer to the original text.

Finally, we move to the final sentence with a curse word. The word is “hell” in the English version, compared to “dođavola” in the Bosnian one and “*helvete*” in the original text (meaning “hell”, according to my informant). Even though the Bosnian one cannot be translated literally, it carries exactly the same meaning as its English counterpart, thus making both of them correct but the English version is identical to the original text.

4 CONCLUSION

I think that it is important to emphasize the main reason behind my choice of this particular topic. Besides the fact that I found this topic close to me, in the sense that I have been familiar with it through watching the sport for so many years, the main reason was to try and show the difficulties that translators have to go through when they translate any text, especially something very specific like this. I consider myself lucky because this topic is not new for me so I found many terms easy to relate to, but it can be very challenging for someone who is not familiar with it and he/she will probably encounter many problems while translating it. This thesis compared the two translations of the original text which was in Swedish, and we managed to see that the same word can be translated differently, especially when we take the cultural differences into context.

The thesis focused on the translation of the football terms, proper names and it put a special emphasis on the dialogues and curse words, since they showed Zlatan's true character. All of the examples which were compared were chosen because they were specific. Some were completely different from each other, while others were very similar. This was done in order to show that two completely different languages can also be similar in a way. It is important to emphasize that these examples were used to show the challenges, differences and similarities in the translations, as well as the decision-making processes. This was done by a rather simple method, and that was comparing the two translations between each other, and checking out which was closer to the original text. As mentioned before, we were able to see, through this analysis, that both translators used their own specific style when they were translating the original text. The most important part was to deliver the overall emotional feeling of the original text, and that was almost always the case.

In conclusion, we can say that there is no perfect translation, and that there is not a single word choice which is bound to be correct, because we have seen that one word can be translated in many ways, but the most important thing is to deliver the message in such a way that the readers of the targeted language do not even realize that they are reading a translated version.

5 REFERENCES

5.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

Ibrahimović, Zlatan et al. *I Am Zlatan Ibrahimović*. Penguin Books Ltd., 2013.

Lagercrantz, David et al. *Ja Sam Zlatan Ibrahimović*. Buybook, 2012.

Ibrahimović, Z., & Lagercrantz, D. (2019). *Jeg er Zlatan Ibrahimović*. Gyldendal.

5.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

Žiga, N., 2020. Interview on Swedish Colloquialisms.

"Definition Of CURSE WORD". Merriam-Webster.Com, 2020, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/curse%20word>.

Baker, M. (1992). *In Other Words*. Taylor & Francis.

5.3 WEB SOURCES

"Different Translation Theories". Ukessays.Com, 2018, <https://www.ukessays.com/essays/english-language/different-translation-theories-to-literature-translation-english-language-essay.php>.

"7 Translation Techniques To Facilitate Your Work". Cultures Connection, 2020, <https://culturesconnection.com/7-translation-techniques/>. Accessed June 2020.

Warwick, Josh. "How To Live Your Life Like Zlatan Ibrahimovic". Telegraph.Co.Uk, 2014, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/men/the-filter/11083954/How-to-live-your-life-like-Zlatan-Ibrahimovic.html>. Accessed June 2020.

En.glosbe.com. 2021. centre forward in Bosnian - English-Bosnian Dictionary | Glosbe. [online] Available at: <<https://en.glosbe.com/en/bs/centre%20forward>> [Accessed 5 July 2020].

Dictionary.cambridge.org. 2021. midfielder. [online] Available at: <<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/midfielder>> [Accessed 5 July 2020].

Dictionary.cambridge.org. 2021. defender - definition 2. [online] Available at: <<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/defender>> [Accessed 5 July 2020].

"Zlatan Ibrahimovic - Detailed Stats". Transfermarkt.Com, 2021, <https://www.transfermarkt.com/zlatan-ibrahimovic/leistungsdatendetails/spieler/3455>.

"Massimo Ambrosini - Player Profile". Transfermarkt.Com, 2021,
<https://www.transfermarkt.com/massimo-ambrosini/profil/spieler/5818>.

Pep Guardiola - Player profile. Transfermarkt.com. (2021). Retrieved 19 September 2021, from <https://www.transfermarkt.com/pep-guardiola/profil/spieler/5950>.

Alessandro Nesta - Player profile. Transfermarkt.com. (2021). Retrieved 19 September 2021, from <https://www.transfermarkt.com/alessandro-nesta/profil/spieler/4171>.

Lilian Thuram - Player profile. Transfermarkt.com. (2021). Retrieved 19 September 2021, from <https://www.transfermarkt.com/lilian-thuram/profil/spieler/3521>.

Rafael van der Vaart - Player profile. Transfermarkt.com. (2021). Retrieved 19 September 2021, from <https://www.transfermarkt.com/rafael-van-der-vaart/profil/spieler/4192>.

Patrick Vieira - Player profile. Transfermarkt.com. (2021). Retrieved 19 September 2021, from <https://www.transfermarkt.com/patrick-vieira/profil/spieler/3183>.