

Translating and standardizing metadata: a case study for French social sciences surveys

Alina Danciu

▶ To cite this version:

Alina Danciu. Translating and standardizing metadata: a case study for French social sciences surveys. European Survey Research Association Conference (ESRA), European Survey Research Association, Jul 2019, Zagreb, Croatia. pp.11. hal-03901254

HAL Id: hal-03901254 https://sciencespo.hal.science/hal-03901254

Submitted on 15 Dec 2022

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



SciencesPo



Translating and standardizing metadata: a case study for French social sciences surveys

Alina Danciu
Center for Socio-Political Data (CDSP),
Paris, France
ESRA conference Zagreb, July, 18 2019

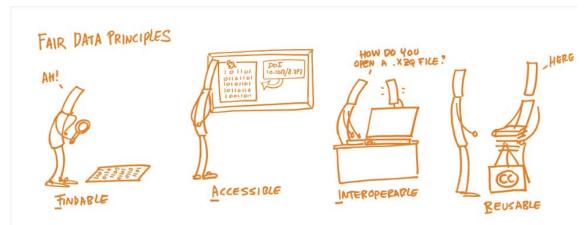
 \bigcirc

- Multilingualism as a dimension of data discoverability
- ☐ Translation challenges: controlled vocabularies & cultural issues
- ☐ Improving our practices





FAIR data and metadata at the Center for Socio-Political Data (CDSP)



How **FAIR principles** should manifest in reality is **open to interpretation***Consensus on the fact that the ultimate goal of metadata should be to optimize reuse of data
Need for data archives to adapt

Source: Mons, B. and Neylon, C. and Velterop, J. and Dumontier, M. and Da Silva Santos, L. and Wilkinson, M. 2017. Goudy, increasingly FAIR; Revisiting the FAIR Data guiding principles for the European Open Science Goud. Information Services and Use. 37 (1): pp. 49-56.



Why translate metadata?



of non French speaking data users at the CDSP "Metadata translation is often sufficient to support a user's assessment whether an object is relevant or not."

Source: https://pro.europeana.eu/files/Europeana_Professional/Publications/BestPracticesForMultilingualAccess_whitepaper.pdf



What's special about metadata translation?

Translators of literature often have a great deal of linguistic and artistic freedom. The challenge of translating fiction usually lies in carrying the ambiguities of the source language over to the target language.

Translating technical and informative texts requires **clearer**, more **univocal interpretation**, although depending on the text type a translator may have some creative licence.

Source: https://tietoarkistoblogi.blogspot.com/2018/12/translation-and-international-data-use.html



What is a *good* (metadata) translation?

Language is built on interpretations

How to create a neutral translation?

Priority: relaying the idea of the original text clearly and intelligibly Can full equivalence be achieved?

Striving for <u>fidelity</u> and clarity





(Not) Controlled vocabularies

French:

Centre de recherches politiques de Sciences Po

CEMPOF

Centre de recherches politiques de Sciences Po (CEMPOF)

Centre d'études de la vie politique française

English:

Center of political researches of Sciences Po (CEMPOF)

Importance of CVs!

Cultural expressions (1)

Source language:

"punaiset tuvat ja perunamaat"

Target language 1:

"red cottages and potato fields"

Target language 2:

"typical Finnish countryside"



Source: https://tietoarkistoblogi.blogspot.com/2018/12/translation-and-international-data-use.html



Cultural expressions (2)

Source language: L'Obs > Politique > Municipales 2014

Municipales : le PS coulé par la vague

bleue

Target language: "right-wing parties"

Errors in the original text



Ideal situation

In-house translator

And in real life?

Translation process at the CDSP Professional translator Proofreading

Review of the original source language version

Going back and standardizing and harmonising metadata. Using controlled vocabularies. The initial cost quickly amortised.



Conclusion

Should we translate variables metadata?

CESSDA Euro Question Bank (EQB) for inspiration.

Translating metadata allowed us to reasses them and improve our processes.