

# UNIQUE ITEMS IN TRANSLATION: TRANSLATING "AND" FROM ENGLISH INTO CROATIAN

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## **Abstract**

*The translation process entails various, often nonconscious, cognitive processes. Due to source language interference, translators may choose translation solutions similar to the source and neglect less obvious but possibly more adequate solutions. This paper, based on the author's M.A. thesis, aims at testing the unique items hypothesis (Tirkkonen-Condit 2002) on the English conjunction "and", whose possible Croatian correspondents "a", "pa" and "te" can be considered unique items, i.e. linguistic elements specific to the target language. The use of these items in an English-Croatian translation task is compared to that in a monolingual Croatian cloze test. The influence of translation skills and time constraint on the representation of unique items in translation are examined. The research is conducted on two groups of graduate students of English: those specializing in translation and those in non-translation tracks. As expected, the Croatian unique items are under-represented in translation when compared with their use in a monolingual task. In the translation task, participants with more developed translation skills use the unique items more frequently. Time pressure impacts negatively on the use of unique items. In addition to contributing to our understanding of translation universals, the results offer insight into the nonconscious cognitive processes in translation, and as such can be relevant for translator education.*