Translating Culture-Specific Humor in Subtitling The Big Bang Theory

Štefanac, Sara

Master's thesis / Diplomski rad

2016

Degree Grantor / Ustanova koja je dodijelila akademski / stručni stupanj: **Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences / Sveučilište Josipa Jurja Strossmayera u Osijeku, Filozofski fakultet**

Permanent link / Trajna poveznica: https://urn.nsk.hr/urn:nbn:hr:142:129271

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Download date / Datum preuzimanja: **2024-03-29**

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Sveučilište J.J. Strossmayera u Osijeku
Filozofski fakultet Osijek
Diplomski studij mađarskog jezika i književnosti i engleskog jezika i književnosti

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Znanstveno područje humanističke znanosti, polje filologija, grana anglistika

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Abstract

After the introduction there is a chapter on the theoretical background about humor, the difference versus verbal and conceptual humor, and the theoretical part about subtitling. In this theoretical part some basic facts about humor and subtitling are presented. Later, humor and subtitling are connected according to the categories of humor using write-out-loud.com as a source, as well as English and Croatian subtitles from the TV series The Big Bang Theory.

The topic of this research is an analysis of humor translation in the subtitles of the TV series The Big Bang Theory. This TV series is a good example of verbal humor in subtitling because it has a lot of examples for each category of verbal humor and it can be used as a good topic for the discussion about humor translation. The characters in this series use different types of humor and because of that it is sometimes difficult to achieve the same humorous effect among Croatian viewers. The main reason for that is the fact that the translator often has to compensate, use different idioms, plays on words, jokes and has to be very creative. It is very important to be familiar with cultural background and fill in the gaps when there is a difference. It contains both English and Croatian subtitles which are divided into seventeen categories of verbal humor according to the write-out-loud.com. The central part of this research is the analysis of verbal humor translation, with the explanation of meaning of the idioms, plays on words, and the ways of translating and compensating in order to preserve the humorous effect and meanings of the subtitles which are used both in Croatian and English subtitles.

After analyzing each category there are comments at the end of each category of verbal humor, in which every translation is analysed according to Katia Spankaki's (2007) categorization of humor translation from Translation Journal.

Keywords: humor, translation, subtitling, English, Croatian

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1. Introduction

This research deals with humor translation in the subtitles of the TV series The Big Bang Theory. It is based on the comparison of English subtitles and their Croatian translations.

Since it discusses the subtitles of a specific TV series, I will begin this research with a brief theoretical overview, in which I will mention some of the basic definitions of humor from different points of view, and also mention some of the most important types of humor. Also, I will point out the difference between verbal and conceptual humor, but I will be based on verbal humor, because it is the type of humor on which the research is based. I will also mention some brief explanation of what subtitling actually is, and at the end of this theoretical part connect humor with subtitling. Secondly, in the research design, collected English subtitles are put into seventeen categories of verbal humor and compared with their Croatian translations. Below every translated subtitle there are comments concerning translation, and in some parts other solutions are offered. Those solutions are suggested as more appropriate ones, because in some places translator does not have to compensate in order to preserve the humorous effect or the original meaning. In some places humorous parts are translated literally, which is possible for some of the experessions, but in some places by using the literal translation humorous effect is lost and Croatian viewers miss some important parts. Main categories of verbal humor are: Pun, Malapropism, Joke, Irony and Sounds in verbal humor. Those categories are pointed out as the main ones, because throughout the research it is found out that most of the examples fit in one of those categories.

Finally, below every category of verbal humor, there is analysis and comments concerning methods of translation according to Katia Spankaki's methods of humor translation from source language into the target language. Previously divided categories of verbal humor in every category are again subdivided according to the Spankaki's methods of translation. In this part I will point out if the humor is preserved in the translation, and suggest whether the other solutions are possible or there is no other way to translate the humor in order to preserve it in the translation.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Humor

By the definition of Cambridge Dictionary humor is “the ability to find things funny, the way in which people see that some things are funny, or the quality of being funny.” (Cambridge Dictionary Online) Humor is a part of our everyday lives, and because of that it has a big importance in every culture and every language. There are various theories of humor which are based on different points of view regarding different fields of study.

It is important to mention definitions and aspects from the psychological point of view. According to Ostrower: “Humor is a complex phenomenon. There is no general theory of humor or even an agreed definition.”(Ostrower 2000) Since it is regarded as a very complex phenomenon even psychologists did not come up with an exact theory about it, and they were not able to define it. “When we try to define exactly what counts as humor and what does not, or how humor operates, we find it quite difficult.” (Ostrower 2000) Therefore, she regards humor as a joint of three components functioning as a composition. “Humor is comprised of three components: wit, mirth, and laughter.” (Ostrower 2000)

“Wit is the cognitive experience, Mirth the emotional experience, Laughter the physiological experience.” (Ostrower 2000)

Wit is “the ability to use words in a clever and humorous way.” (Cambridge Dictionary Online) This is a basic element of producing a humorous statement, which often has hidden and sometimes, in different kinds of humor, also derogatory meaning.

Mirth is “laughter, humor, or happiness.” (Cambridge Dictionary Online) Mirth can further be explained as an action or process which happens alerted by our emotions in the process of producing or hearing a joke or some other humorous statement.

Laughter is “the act or sound of laughing.” (Cambridge Dictionary Online) In the process of creating or receiving a humorous statement laughter is the result of everything, and it happens when the act of making a humorous statement is successfully accomplished. “We often equate laughter with humor, but there are many instances of laughter (tickling, nervousness, etc.) that clearly have little to do with humor.” (Ostrower 2000) As mentioned here, not every instance of laughter is a result of humor, but in the process described above laughter driven by humor is a part of the process. “Similarly, there are many instances of humor that do not result in laughter (due to the mood of the appreciator, the social context, etc.).” (Ostrower 2000) Since there is no

agreed definition of humor, it is not difficult to conclude that one of the reasons for it is that every person is different, and will have their own definition of what leaves a humorous impression on them. Humor is probably one of the topics which will stay debatable forever. “Like beauty being in the eyes of the beholder, humor is in the funny bone of the receiver of the experience.” (Ostrower 2000)

Humor does not appear only in the pleasant and joyful situations. It is a complex phenomenon which can be a side effect of unpleasant situations. “Humor is a quality of perception that enables us to experience joy even when faced with adversity.” (Ostrower 2000)

2.2 Verbal humor vs conceptual humor

Definition of humor is the thing we cannot argue about, since there is no correct answer on the question what it indeed is. Its rough meaning can be divided two basic categories, which are later further spread. “Even though humor differs from individual to individual and from culture to culture, there is one distinction which seems to apply universally, which has to do with how the humorous effect is achieved, and that is Freud's distinction between verbal humor and conceptual humor.” (Jensen 2009:2)

At the beginning it is crucial to divide humor into two types – verbal and conceptual, where we define it. According to the main topic of humor in subtitling, verbal humor will be deeply analyzed and discussed. “Verbal humor is when an aspect of language, such as structural ambiguity, is exploited in order to achieve a humorous effect, while conceptual humor involves concepts or ideas that are thought of as humorous without using aspects of language for other purposes conveying the humorous message.” (Jensen 2009:2) Since the subtitling of these humorous situations is transposition of verbal humorous statements into written form it is important to mention categories in which verbal humor is further divided.

According to the “Write-Out-Loud.com” (Dugdale 2006-16) verbal humor is divided into following categories which will be further discussed in the continuation:

1. Pun fun
2. Innuendo or double entendre
3. Malapropism
4. Spoonerism
5. Mixed metaphor

6. Joke
7. Extended or running gag
8. Shaggy dog story
9. Parody
10. Satire
11. Irony
12. Overstatement
13. Understatement
14. Statements of the obvious
15. Exclusive humor
16. Absurdity
17. Sounds in verbal humor

2.3 Subtitling

Subtitling can be considered as a special type of translation, since it has various limitations and detailed structures that have to be considered when making subtitles and translating for the purpose of it.

There is a rule that subtitle cannot be shorter than two seconds, the only exception is when there are some changes, for example, a change in the location or something similar to it. The ideal duration of subtitle is between two and five seconds. “Subtitle translation, unlike literary translation, is a process from verbal language into written text, and highly dependent on subtitling equipment to present or transfer information to its viewers.” (Liu&Zhang 2009:114) The appropriate length of subtitle is around thirty-seven characters in the line, with gaps included. The number of lines on one screen is another issue and translated subtitles generally occupy “a maximum of two lines.” (Gottlieb, 1998, pp.245 in Zhang&Liu, 2009, 114) When applying those rules of subtitling, translators often have to compensate in order to mind the length and duration of subtitle on the screen. They often have to compensate by shortening part of the text and sometimes they do make some changes in order to achieve it. “They usually adopt

different strategies to avoid breaching these constraints and to meet the requirements of their clients." (Liu&Zhang, 2009:114)

"Subtitling, a translation process from oral language into written text, is different from literary translation." (Liu&Zhang, 2009:118) Various rules have to be concerned in order to achieve, not only translation of text, but also the process of transposing verbal communication into the written one. "When it comes to technical limitations, as Luyken and his colleagues have mentioned "its tasks are particularly restrained by time and space which are imposed by the nature of television and film production." (1991, pp.42 in Zhang&Liu, 2009, 114)" Those limitations dictate to translators in which way they will organize their translation of original text, and how they will transpose it into the written form of subtitles. When dealing with literary translation, there is always a lot more space to express the ideas, and there are also a lot more possibilities to translate original text.

"However, subtitlers also need to take account of other factors in relation to language and culture, in order to present or transfer information to their target audiences." (Liu&Zhang, 2009:118) Not only technical limitations are the ones we have to be concerned, often there are situations when cultural elements have to be adjusted in order to make the audience understand them. When translating from foreign culture there is a lot of fixed expressions, humorous statements and various different elements which are not understandable to the viewers of target language culture. Translator sometimes also has a role in educating viewers by explaining some of elements which could not be adjusted into translation, and usually translator does that by using brackets for explanation.

"We may, therefore, conclude that technology, when it comes to subtitle translation, does not greatly change the essence of translation, but enriches it." (Liu&Zhang, 2009:118) It enriches the culture by transposing different elements of the foreign ones; it compares it and tries to associate with the target language culture, and sometimes even educates the target language viewers by explaining elements which could not be translated.

2.4 Humor in subtitling

Humor, as it plays an important role in verbal communication, also has one of the major roles when speaking about translation. "Humor, as an everyday phenomenon, is increasingly a part of the context of intercultural communication." (Spankaki 2007) It often includes intercultural elements, and for that reason it is crucial to pay attention for it to be correctly transmitted into the target language. "It is also a vehicle for mass entertainment, as television nowadays offers a wide

variety of entertaining programs, both feature films and TV series, which are mostly of Anglo-American origin, with humor as the primary or secondary element." (Spankaki 2007) Since most of the series and movies are translated from source language – English into other target languages, English TV series and movies are the ones which play the most important role when we talk about translating humor from source language. Here, the main target for translating and making subtitles is the translation and adjustment of those elements of verbal humor into the subtitles. "Translators often face the task of having to translate seemingly untranslatable humor, while not reducing the meaning effect, which invariably tests their capability for finding creative solutions." (Spankaki 2007) Apart from being familiar with source language and culture, as well as the cultural and grammatical elements in target language, translators have to be creative and have a good sense of humor in order to be capable of adjusting humor and cultural elements to another culture. Often their task is to adjust jokes which have little or no meaning to another culture, and this is a moment when they have to create the new ones, in some way connected to the source language culture and achieve the same or similar humorous effect when translated. "Following Vandaele: "humor translation is qualitatively different from 'other types' of translation and, consequently, one cannot write about humor translation in the same about other types of translation" (Vandaele 2002:150 in Spankaki 2007)." Humor translation is one of the things which can be discussed about endlessly, but there is never a final solution or answer to the question which was raised.

There are different methods which are listed below, and those methods can help the translator when transforming humorous text from source language into the target language. "The translation methods of puns available for the translator's disposal" (Spankaki 2007)

PUN ⇒ PUN (pun rendered as pun): the ST pun is translated by a TL pun

PUN ⇒ NON PUN (pun rendered as non-pun): a non-punning phrase which may retain all the initial senses (non-selective non-pun), or a non-punning phrase which renders only one of the pertinent senses (selective non-pun), or diffuse paraphrase or a combination of the above

PUN ⇒ RELATED RHETORICAL DEVICE [pun rendered with another rhetorical device, or punoid (repetition, alliteration, rhyme, referential vagueness, irony, paradox etc), which aims to recapture the effect of the ST pun]

PUN ⇒ ZERO (pun rendered with zero pun): the pun is simply omitted

PUN ST = PUN TT (ST pun copied as TT pun, without being translated)

NON PUN à PUN (a new pun introduced): a compensatory pun is inserted, where there was none in the ST, possibly making up for ST puns lost elsewhere (strategy 4 where no other solution was found), or for any other reason

ZERO ⇒ PUN (addition of a new pun): totally new textual material is added, containing a wordplay as a compensatory device

EDITORIAL TECHIQUES: explanatory footnotes or endnotes, comments in translator's forewords, 'anthological' presentation of different, complementary solutions etc.

3. Research Design

As a source for this research two types of subtitles are used. Croatian subtitles from the online video file *"Teorija Velikog Praska"*, and English subtitles of the TV Series "The Big Bang Theory".

The analysis is made by first watching online video files on the web page www. *TeorijaVelikogPraska.tk*, and comparing Croatian subtitles with the original English statements as a guide for further comparison. Those subtitles are written and saved using the number of the season, episode and minute when the statement appears on the screen to be able to find and compare it with the English subtitles for the later analysis.

After collecting Croatian subtitles from nine seasons of this TV series, English subtitles are downloaded from the web page *www.titlovi.com.* After collecting both versions of subtitles, English and Croatian one, 99 examples are divided into seventeen categories of verbal humor according to the write-out-loud.com. Below every example in this seventeen categories there are comments concerning each example of humor translation. Comments are about other possibilities of translation, if there are some, and offered solutions. Below some examples there are comments that offered solutions are not the best and the most understandable ones, but below some there is also a conclusion that no other solutions are possible.

After humor analysis those examples are analyzed based on the Katia Spankaki's (2007) categorization of humor translation from the Translation Journal.

3.1 Pun

According to the write-out-loud.com "A pun is a play on words, in which a word of multiple meanings, or a word of similar sound but different meaning, is used to create the joke. It is probably the commonest form of verbal humor, and often the most derided!" (Dugdale 2006-16)

(1.1) Leonard, excellent. I want to show you something. - Can it wait? I need to talk to you. - Just look. I've designed the perfect uniforms for our team. The colors are based on Star Trek: The Original Series. The three of you will wear Support Red, and I will wear Command Gold. - Why do they say "AA"? - Army Ants.

Sjajno! Želim ti nešto pokazati. – Poslije. Moramo razgovarati. – Dizajnirao sam savršene odore za naš tim. Boje su iz prvih Zvjezdanih staza. Vi ćete biti u pomoćnim crvenima, a ja u zapovjednom žutom. – Zašto piše AA? – Army Ants. (Season 1, episode 13, 06:29[1])

Humor is here expressed by double meaning of the abbreviation of AA. Originally, AA is a worldwide known abbreviation for Alcoholics Anonymous. There are no difficulties with the translation of the abbreviation, because the initial letters of it are the same in English and in Croatian. The problem is in the other part, translated expression Army Ants does not have the same initial letters when translated into Croatian. Because of that reason the translator did not translate the expression, and decided to leave it in its initial form. The other possible solution is changing the expression Army Ants into something that would have the same initial letters when translated into Croatian. It would be even a better solution, because in that case it would be much more understandable to the Croatian viewers, and for the most important reason, more of them would be able to actually understand it.

(1.2) I'm sorry. But revenge is a dish best served cold.

Žao mi je Leonarde. Ali osveta je jelo koje se poslužuje hladno. (Season 2, episode 16, 20:11)

Translation of the idiom “Revenge is a dish best served cold” using the literal translation in this case is acceptable, because of the influence of the English language which made it familiar to Croatians. In Croatian, there is also an expression which includes revenge and it is more common which is *osveta je slatka.* Because of the possible difference in understanding, the translator decided it would be more appropriate to translate the expression literally.

(1.3) Okay, make your little jokes, but of the four of us, I'm the only one making any real-world contribution to science and technology. - He's right. This is an important

[1] The numbers indicate the exact time the subtitle appears on the screen.

achievement, for two reasons. Number one... and, of course, number two! - Clever! Playing on the use of cardinal numbers as euphemisms for bodily functions.

Samo se vi šalite, ali samo ja ovdje pridonosim znanosti i tehnologiji. – To je važno postignuće iz dva razloga: malog i, jasno, velikog. – Duhovito! Pridjevi kao eufemizam za tjelesne funkcije. (Season 2, episode 22, 01:00)

As previously explained in the text, the humor is about body functions. A great example where it is shown that some simple jokes cannot be translated literally, but we have to change words completely to keep the humorous effect. In this case numbers which are used in English are replaced by adjective which explains its meaning in Croatian.

(1.4) What are you talking about? - The cultural paradigm in which people have sex after three dates. - I see. Now, are we talking "date", the social interaction, or "date", the dried fruit?

O čemu razgovarate? – O seksu poslije tri spoja. – Shvaćam. Spoj kao druženje ili spoj kao mjesto spajanja sastavnica? (Season 3, episode 9, 03:00)

Humor here is preserved in the translation because the translator found double meaning in the target language as well. The first translated meaning of the word is the same, but when translated into Croatian the word date does not mean dried fruit. In order to preserve the original humor the translator found a different solution to this problem. He decided to go with completely different expression which makes sense in Croatian. The meaning is not the same, but humorous effect is still here, which would not be possible if the original humorous expression was used.

(1.5) Kidding. Just a couple of friends goofin' around. - No, Goofy, no.

Šalim se. Prijateljska zafrkancija. – Ne, Šiljo... (Season 3, episode 20, 19:38)

The play on words in this statement is not preserved, because goofing around and Goofy simply do not mean the same when translated. This is one of the examples where humor gets completely lost in translation.

(1.6) Do you think I overreacted? - Maybe a little. - Because I do that. I do overreact. Maybe I should call Mike and apologize. - That would be under-reacting.

Preburno sam reagirala? – Malo. – Često to činim. Trebala bih mu se ispričati. – Ne, ne. To bi bilo nedovoljno burno reagiranje. (Season 1, episode 17)

In English a word “react” has prefixes which modify a word. Those used here are “under” and “over”. When translating it they get different forms and prefixes are not used, although the meaning is the same.

(1.7) Hey, it's Disco Night at the Moonlight Roller Rink in Glendale tonight. Who's up for getting down?

Večeras je Noć diska u Moonlightu. Tko je za? (Season 3, episode 14, 02:51)

Here there is another example of play on words in English which does not exist in Croatian. Because of this, there is a lack of humor when it is translated, although the meaning stays the same.

(1.8) Just for the record, when you enter 5,318,008 on a calculator, upside-down it spells "boobies"

Kad utipkaš 5,318.008 u kalkulator i okreneš naopako, piše GOLESISE. (Season 4, episode 10, 01:41)

This play on words includes numbers on the calculator. This play on words is also well known in Croatia, but the translator only copied the numbers, not focusing on the result in Croatian. It is possible to make it for Croatian audience by using different numbers, and to get the same result. Those numbers are 35153709.

(1.9) Howard has announced his intention to propose marriage to Bernadette. - I don't understand. The original piece of gossip indicated an impending breakup. - I know. The group consensus is that his proposal will be met with an humiliating, soul-crushing rejection. Everyone was set a-twitter. Although oddly, no one tweeted.

Howard je izrazio nakanu da zaprosi Bernardette. – Ne razumijem. Prvi trač upućivao je na skori prekid. – Znam. Svi mislimo da će prosidba naići na ponižavajuće odbijanje. Svi su se raskokodakali. Ali začudo, nitko nije tweetao. (Season 4, episode 20, 12:24)

Play on words in which an expression“to tweet” as a sound of a young bird and public network tweeter are mentioned. The name for public network is not translated, whereas there is a Croatian word for a verb to tweet. It loses humorous effect in translation, if we do or do not translate it. In this case the translator compensated it by translating a verb and leaving the name for the public network in its original form.

(1.10) Would you like to come in for a nightcap? - If you're referring to the beverage, you know I don't drink. If you're referring to the hat you don while wearing a nightshirt and holding a candle, I have one.

Ideš na čašicu? – Ako misliš na piće, znaš da ne pijem. Ako misliš na noćnu kapicu koju nosiš dok držiš svijeću, imam je. (Season 4, episode 21, 13:09)

A play on words which have the same meaning, as it is explained in the original subtitles. In Croatian this is again not the case. The humorous effect here is lost. There is a possibility where humor could have been preserved by using a “candle” in translation and not using “cap”. The word *čašica* has the same meaning in the sense of drinking and in the sense of something that serves to hold the candle.

(1.11) What are you and Professor Fussyface up to tonight?

Što ti i profesor Pedantić radite večeras? (Season 5, episode 9, 00:17)

Play on words here is expressed with a nickname which was given based on someone's personality. Fussy means “full of superfluous details” (Farlex 2003-16) which indicates it is correctly replaced by the similar play on words.

(1.12) In that case, I will have a s'more by myself. And then I'm gonna have s'more. By myself.

Onda ću sam jesti s'more. A onda ću jesti s'more. Sam. (Season 5, episode 15, 15:31)

In this case humor is expressed by two almost the same words, “S'more” and “more”. Funny part is lost in the translation, because “S'more”, as a name, stays in its original form, and the word “more” is translated. For that reason it changes in form, and the joke does not make sense anymore.

(1.13) Sheldon Cooper, I've got a bone to pick with you, and I'm about to do it in front of all your friends. - Yeah, you pick that bone. You pick that bone clean!

Sheldone, moramo nešto raspraviti pred svim prijateljima. – Raspravi o tome do kosti! (Season 5, episode 19, 16:25)

To have a bone to pick with someone is an idiom which means "something that you say when you want to talk to someone about something they have done that has annoyed you." (Farlex 2003-16) The entire joke is about reversing and modeling that idiom for which there is no replacement in Croatian. Because of that, most of the joke is missing when it is translated.

(1.14) As is the tradition, I have prepared a series of disrespectful joke which generate humor at Howard's expense. Prepare to have your ribs tickled...

Kao što običaj nalaže, pripremio sam niz šala na Howardov račun. Pripremite se za pucanje od smijeha. (Season 5, episode 22, 08:48)

To have your ribs tickled is an expression defined as a slang word, also found in idioms. Its meaning is "to cause much laughter." (Farlex 2003-16) This translation is satisfying, because although the expressions do not mean the same when translated literally, they mean the same thing.

(1.15) Look who's here to put the "Jew" in "Jewelry Night"!

Vidite tko je došao da vam kiti večer nakita! (Season 7, episode 7, 11:44)

The humor in play on words is preserved by making another play on words. Meaning is a bit different because it does not include a "Jew" anymore, but the play on words is made for the foreign viewers almost like in the original.

(1.16) Yeah. You know what, uh, geologists and Bon Jovi have in common? - You're both into rock?

Što geolozi i Bon Jovi imaju zajedničko? – Zanima vas rock? (=stijene) (Season 7, episode 13, 05:59)

In order to preserve humor the translator kept the terms unchanged, but translated the word in the brackets afterwards. In that way he explained the humorous part to the viewers and in a way educated them, since there was no other way to translate it.

(1.17) Oh, what should I say? Oh, I know. I'll point out her name's Yvette, and that she's a vet. That's hysterical.

Što da kažem? Znam. Naglasit ću da se zove Ivet i da je veterinar. To je smiješno. (Season 7, episode 15, 18:29)

The joke stays preserved because neither of the words in translation changes. This is the easiest situation for the translator, since the meanings and humorous expressions overlap and there are no situations which have to be compensated.

(1.18) So, when is it? - Uh, well, it's not May the fifth... and it's not May the third... It's May the fourth. Get it? May the fourth be with you? "May the force be with you." Get it?

Pa, kad je? – Pa nije 5. svibnja... Nije 3. svibnja... (slučajte razliku u riječima) 4. svibnja je. – Kužiš? – Neka četvrti bude s tobom. – „Nek je sila s tobom.“ Kužiš? (Season 7, episode 22, 00:19)

Because of the impossibility to translate the text and to preserve the meaning, in this case the translator indicated that the audience to listen to the difference in pronunciation of words, and in the same time translated it literally. This is a good solution, although it is almost impossible for the foreign speaker to understand it if they do not speak at least some English.

(1.19) Hey. What brings you by? - Oh...muffin much. - Told you-- not funny. - He's just not laughing because he's feeling... blue berry.

Otkud vi ovdje? – Korpica muffina. – Rekao sam ti da nije smiješno. – Ne smije se jer se osjeća tužno kao borovnica. (Season 8, episode 9, 10:58)

To feel blue means to feel sad. When translated this expression does not have any sense. One solution is to literally translate the original as the translation solved the problem here, but there is also another solution, especially in this case where the feeling of being sad has an expression in Croatian, for example: Ne smije jer je žalosna... vrba.

(1.20) There's a national helium reserve in Amarillo, Texas. If this was stolen from there, we're accessories to a federal crime. - Let's not jump to conclusions. A lot of things start with “U.” - That's true. There's the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Navy, “you” and I are going to jail.

Postoje nacionalne rezerve helijuma u Amarillu u Teksasu. Ako je ovo ukradeno od tamo, suučesnici smo u federalnom zločinu. – Ne stvarajmo preuranjene zaključke. Mnoge stvari počinju s „U“. – Istina. Tu je Zračne snage SAD, Ministarstvo obrane SAD, Mornarica SAD, „U“ zatvor ćemo ti i ja. (Season 9, episode 6, 13:43)

In translation there is no right play on words, because of lack of letter “U”. The effect would be better if the translator did not change the order in organizations. For example, there are a lot of things that start with “S”, such as: *SAD Zračne snage, SAD Ministarstvo obrane, SAD Mornarica, Sad ćemo u zatvor ti i ja.*

There are twenty examples in this category. Nine examples are translated from PUN into PUN. Example 1.3 is a pun which is simply translated with another pun. In the examples 1.2 and 1.14 idiom is translated with another idiom, in the example 1.4 double meaning is translated using another double meaning, in the example 1.8 another solution, which is considered as the better one, is offered. In the example 1.11 a nickname is changed with another nickname which is more appropriate in the translation. In the example 1.15 play on words is translated with another play on words, and in the example 1.17 play on words is the same in the original and translated subtitles.

Six examples are translated from PUN into ZERO. Those examples are: 1.5, 1.7, and 1.13. Examples 1.10, 1.19, and 1.20 are also translated from PUN into ZERO but another possible solutions which are considered as the better ones while making this analysis are offered.

There are three examples in this category where PUN ST is translated as the PUN TT.those examples are 1.1, 1.9, and 1.12.

Two examples from this category are translated using the EDITORIAL TECNIQUES. Those examples are 1.16 and 1.18 where the exmplanation is provided in the brackets.

In this category, the best example of translation is the example 1.4 where characters talk about double meaning of the words. The translator did not translate the expression literally, but he used completely other word in translation to keep the double meaning.

3.2 Innuendo or double entendre

According to the write-out-loud.com “An innuendo is an indirect, often derogatory hint. The speaker appears innocent and the innuendo is ‘discovered’ in mind of the listener. The most frequent of these are sexual innuendos or double entendre. The second meaning, often achieved through a pun, is intentional.” (Dugdale 2006-16)

(2.1) It's hot in here. Must be Summer.

Vruće je. Mora biti Summer. (Season 2, episode 17, 11:12)

The funny effect is not preserved in this case of double meaning, because when translated the word summer does not mean the same. In English it has double meaning because except of the season, summer is also common female name, which does not exist in Croatian. Because of that, the translator avoided the translation of the name and left it in its initial form. The result is the lack of humorous effect in the translation. This problem cannot be solved because when translated the word “summer” is not a name, and when it stays in its initial form it is not understandable to the Croatian viewers.

(2.2) I hate my name. It has "nerd" in it. Len-nerd.

Mrzim svoje ime. U njemu je nerd. Len-nerd. (Season 3, episode 8)

As a part of the name there is a word “nerd”. In English it has a meaning, “a foolish, inept, or unattractive person” (Farlex 2003-16). In translation the word stays the same, but by dividing the word in two parts then, they do not have meaning. Because of that, there is a lack of humorous effect in the translation. Here, the possible solution which is not used is translation by using EDITORIAL TECNIQUES. To be more precise, it means that the translator can explain the meaning of this play on words by using brackets for explanation. (nerd=šterber)

(2.3) Problem? - This is the worst cobbler I've ever eaten. It tastes like it's made of actual ground-up shoemaker. - Amusing. A play on the two meanings of "cobbler."

Problem? – Ovo je najgore bijelo brdo koje sam dosada kušao. Ima okus kao da je doslovno komad brda. – Zabavno. Igra s dvama značenjima riječi brdo. (season 4, episode 6, 00:09)

As already explained the word “cobbler” has two meanings, first is “one who mends or makes boots and shoes” and the second one is “a deep-dish fruit pie with a thick top crust” (Farlex

2003-16). The translator made a great decision here. By avoiding the literal translation which would not make any sense in Croatian, switched it to something completely else with different meaning, but by using that solution achieved the same humorous effect.

(2.4) Now you listen to me. I know you feel like you can't find someone, but there's a lock for every key.

Sad me slušaj. Znam da misliš da nikoga ne možeš naći. Ali svaki lonac nađe poklopac. (Season 5, episode 6, 07:02)

Here, the expression which makes humorous effect is translated by the one that has the same effect and meaning in Croatian, although it is different than the original.

(2.5) Uh, you come to the end of the tunnel and find a large chest. What do you do? And, Howard, do not say, "I feel up the large chest."

Dolaziš do kraja tunela i našeš veliku škrinju (= grudi). Što ćeš? Howarde, samo nemoj reći „Opipam ih.“ (Season 6, episode 11, 08:37)

Humorous effect is achieved by using double meaning. Like in most of the examples meaning is not double when translated, and the translator explained the second meaning in brackets. In that way viewers could understand the original humor.

(2.6) What happened to you last night? - Oh, well, turns out I'd already met the girl Raj is seeing when I did a number on her bathroom. And that number was two.

Što se tebi desilo sinoć? – Oh, pa, ispadne da sam već upoznao curu koju Raj viđa kada sam uradio broj u njenom kupatilu. Ta taj broj je bio dva. (Season 7, episode 20, 17:55)

Humorous effect is expressed by using the hidden meaning of numbers. It is translated literally into Croatian, but it does not have much sense in those translated subtitles. The same thing in Croatian is not expressed by using numbers. It would be better to use the expressions with *velika/mala*.

There are six examples in this category. Three examples are translated from PUN into ZERO. Those examples are 2.1, 2.2, and 2.6. For the last example in this category – 2.6 another solution which is throughout making this analysis considered as better one is offered below the example.

Two examles are translated from PUN into PUN. In the example 2.3, play on words is translated with another play on words which is appropriate for the translation and makes the humorous effect when Croatian viewers read it, and the example 2.4 is an idiom translated with another idiom.
On example 2.5 is a PUN translated using the EDITORIAL TECNIQUES. There, the humorous effect is explained in the brackets.
The best example of translating humorous expression is from the example 2.4 where the translator translates original idiomatic expression with the one which has the same meaning in the translated text.

3.3 Malapropism

According to the write-out-loud.com “A malapropism is created through either the intentional or unintentional misuse of a word - substituting the 'right' word for another with a similar sound. It derives its name from a character (Mrs Malaprop) in Richard Sheridan's 1775 play The Rivals.” (Dugdale 2006-16)

(3.1) And look over here. "Shrimp in mobster sauce." What is "mobster sauce"? - It's obviously a typo. - Perhaps. Or perhaps this restaurant's now a front for organized crime. For all we know, the mobster sauce contains actual chunks of deceased mobsters. - No, no, no, no-- I think it just means it's the kind of sauce that mobsters like. - It doesn't mean any of that! It's a typo.

Pogledajte ovo. Škampi u umaku od mobstera. Što je umak od mobstera? – Očito je tipfeler. – Možda. Ili su sada paravan za mafiju. Možda su u tom umaku komadići mrtvih mafijaša. – Ne, to je umak kakav mafijaši vole. – Ne znači ništa od toga! Tipfeler je. (Season 3, episode 13, 00:52)

The humorous effect is achieved by a typo. Except using the word “oyster”, which is “a large flat sea creature that lives in a shell, some types of which can be eaten either cooked or uncooked, and other types of which produce pearls.” (Cambridge Dictionary Online) Misused word was “mobster” which is “a gangster”. The expression mobster is not translated; just the word mobster is used again, which does not mean anything in Croatian and neither does the oyster, so the joke is almost impossible to understand for someone who reads the translation only.

(3.2) I'm telling you, dude, the only way to feel better about Penny going out with other guys is for you to get back on the whores. - Horse. - What? - The phrase is "get back on the horse," not "whores." That's disgusting, dude.

Jedino što će ti pomoći da preboliš Pennyne nove dečke jest da se vratiš na kurve. – Konja. – Što? – Kaže se da se vratiš na konja, ne na kurve. To je odvratno. (Season 3, episode 23, 06:24)

The humorous effect in English subtitles is achieved by a misuse of words in the idiom. The translator literally translated the phrase which is not used in Croatian, and it does not have any special effect in Croatian subtitles.

(3.3) Would you be interested in knowing that Mr. Wolowitz once snuck onto my World of Warcraft account and changed the name of a certain level-80 warlock from Sheldor to Smeldor?

Dobro. Bi li vas zanimalo što se ulogirao kao ja u WoW i promijenio ime moga vješca 80. razine iz Sheldor u Smrador? (Season 4, episode 7, 08:48)

Changing a name from “Sheldor” to “Smeldor” was successfully made, because the play on words is similar and there is no big difference.

(3.4) Who is it? - It's Leonard. - You can't come in. - I just want to talk to her. - I forbid it. - Open the door, Rajesh. - You heard me. I forbidded it. - "Forbidded" it? - "Forbaded" it? - Get out of the way.

Tko je? – Leonard. – Ne smiješ ući. – Želim samo razgovarati s njome. – Zabranjujem ti. – Otvori vrata. – Čula si me. Zabranjuo sam. – Zabranjuo? – Zabranjio? – Miči se. (Season 4, episode 16, 06:23)

The first humorous thing here is about the incorrect usage of the irregular verbs which is translated by using misspelled version of Croatian equivalents for it.

(3.5) Stand back... while I turn this conversation into a "conver-sensation."

Pripremi se. Ovu ću konverzaciju pretvoriti u konver-senzaciju. (Season 5, episode 8, 08:44)

In order to achieve the same effect as in the original, the word used in the translation is *konverzacija* even though it is not used very frequently and people understand its meaning.

(3.6) What are you doing? - Oh, uh, Priya's calling in a few minutes on Skype, and we are gonna have a dinner date. - It's 8:00 in the morning in Mumbai. How can she have dinner? - Fine, whatever. Priya will be having breakfast. - All right, so technically it's not a dinner date. I suppose you could call it a, uh, dinfast date.

Što radiš? – Prya će me nazvati na Skypeu pa ćemo večerati. – U Mumbaiju je osam ujutro. Kako možete večerati? – Dobro, Prya će doručkovati. – Znači da to nije večera. Moglo bi se zvati večučak. (Season 5, episode 2, 00:08)

Because of the time difference the humorous effect is accomplished by using neologisms which are made by combining two words, "breakfast" and "dinner". The same neologisms are made by combining those two words when translated into Croatian.

(3.7) What are you drinking? - Coffee liqueur in a Chewbacca mug. I call it a sad-tini.

Što piješ? – Liker od kave u šalici s likom Chewbacce. Zovem ga tugo-tini. (Season 6, episode 1, 17:50)

Neologism is made to achieve humorous effect, and instead of the word "Martini" the word "sad" is added, which made a neologism "sadtini". The same thing is made in the translation.

(3.8) What's wrong with your mom? - Oh, her gout's flaring up. Turns out an apple pie a day does not keep the doctor away.

Što ti je s majkom? – Muči ju giht. Ispostavilo se da i nije zdravo svaki dan pojesti pitu od jabuka. (Season 7, episode 9, 04:23)

An apple a day keeps doctor away is an idiom meaning "apples are so nutritious that if you eat an apple every day, you will not ever need to go to a doctor." (Farlex 2003-16) Here, the humorous effect is accomplished by adding the "apple pie" in the original idiomatic expression. In the translation, we again have a "pie" as the example, although it is not used in Croatian in that way. It would be more familiar to combine some of Croatian idiomatic expressions to achieve the same effect. There could have been something such as: *Ispostavilo se da svako jutro 21 jaje organizmu snagu ne daje.*

(3.9) Settle this. Those little animated pictures on the Internet, are they called "gifs" or "jifs"? - Well, the G stands for "graphics". That's a hard G, so I'd say "gif". - The guy who invented it says it's "jif". - I'm sorry, do you mean the guy or the juy?

Riješi ovo. Izgovaraju li se one animirane slike na internetu kao gifovi ili džifovi? – G znači grafički, znači izgovara se gif. – Gospodin koji ih je izmislio kaže da se izgovara džif. - Želiš li reći gospodin ili džospodin? (Season 8, episode 20, 00:09)

Because of difference in opinion about pronunciation of word the humorous effect is accomplished by changing the word “guy” into a word “juy” to make fun of the opposite statement. The same thing is made in the translation, were the effect is the same as in the original subtitles.

(3.10) What was my first strike? - March 18th.You violated my rule about forwarding email humor. - I did? - The photo of the cat who wants to "has cheezeburger"?

Što mi je bio prvi promašaj? – 18. ožujka. Kršenje zabrane prosljeđivanja internetskog humora. – Zbilja? – Slika mačke koja oče čizburger? (Season 2, episode 7, 06:15)

The humorous effect here is achieved by deliberately misusing tense in the English subtitles, and by word shortening to get a slang word in translation.

(3.11) All he had was an idea. - Well, that is an important part. - Oh, please! I have ideas all day long. Reverse SeaWorld where dolphins are allowed to pet people. A new clothing size between medium and large called Marge.

Samo je imao ideju. – To je važan dio. – Molim te! Ja imam ideje stalno. Obrnuti SeaWorld gdje dupini maze ljude. Nova veličina odjeće između srednje i velike po imenu Srednjika. (Season 8, episode 18, 09:54)

By connecting two words into one, Sheldon again tries to create one of his neologisms. He logically explains the reasons for it, and the translator does the same play on words in the translation in order to get a neologism with the same meaning in Croatian.

From eleven examples in this category eight of them are translated from PUN into the PUN. In the example 3.3 nickname is translated with appropriate nickname, in the example 3.4 misspelled word is changed with another misspelled equivalent in the translated subtitles. In the examples

3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 3.10 and 3.11 play on words in the original text is replaced with another play on words in the translated subtitles.

Two examples, 3.1 and 3.2 are translated from PUN into the ZERO. Example 3.2 is translated literally.

One example, 3.8 is translated from PUN into NON PUN. Another solution is offered in the comments below the example.

The solution which seems the best is the one from the example 3.10 because the humorous effect is achieved with wrong grammar usage. This thing could not be transalted literally, but the translator had to improvise to achieve the same effect with the Croatian viewers. The similar effect is used by deliberately using a slang expression to show the effect which is achieved with the wrong grammar usage.

3.4 Spoonerism

According to the write-out-loud.com "A spoonerism is an either intentional or unintentional transposition of the sounds of two or more words. It takes its name from the Englishman credited with making them famous - Oxford professor William Spooner. Apparently his were genuine slips of the tongue." (Dugdale 2006-16)

(4.1) Knock-knock. - Who's there? - Olive. - Olive you, too.

Kuc-kuc. – Tko je? – Maslina. – I ja tebe maslinim. (Season 4, episode 8, 04:01)

When pronounced the word "olive" sounds similar to the expression "I Love" it is deliberately replaced. When translated into Croatian this expression does not have sense, because sounds of those two expressions do not overlap this time. The translator tried to make a play on words which is a bit different from the original.

(4.2) "Night of the Living Garlic Bread"? - It's funny because "bread" sounds like "dead". - I'm sorry, but these are just ordinary foods with the names bent into tortured puns. The dishes themselves are in no way Halloweenie. Ooh, Hallow-weenies! - That's a good one. They'll pair nicely with my "Draculoni and Cheese."

„Noć živog kruha s češnjakom." – Smiješno je jer bread (kruh) zvuči kao dead (mrtav). – Oprosti, ali ovo je samo tipična hrana s mučenim imenima. Posuđe nije nimalo nalik na Noć

vještica (Halloweenie). Haloweenies. - Ta je dobra. Dobro pašu s mojim Draculoni i Cheese (sir). Baš rasturam! (Season 6, episode 5, 09:29)

Names of food are deliberately replaced by homonyms. The same thing could not be done in Croatian translation, and because of that the translator decided to leave the words unchanged and to write their translation into brackets. This play on words can be understood only by English speaking viewers, and because of that it was important to compensate, and when the translator decided to leave the words in their initial form, to explain their meaning in brackets.

(4.3) It's a shame they spent all that time unhappy. But sometimes, there's muffin you can do about it. You get it, right?

Šteta što su živjeli toliko dugo nesretno. Ali ponekad, muffin ti može riješiti sve probleme. Razumiješ zar ne? (Season 8, episode 9, 11:53)

In the original subtitles the word "nothing" is changed with the word "muffin". In translation, muffin does not have the same effect in replacing the word *ništa*, so the translator decided to use it in another way.

(4.4) Hello. I'm Dr. Sheldon Cooper. And welcome to Sheldon Cooper Presents: Fun with Flags, the Final Episode Flagtacular. I knew it was coming. Still scary.

Pozdrav, ja sam dr. Sheldon Cooper. I dobrodošli u Zabavne zastave. Posljednja epizoda Zastavastično. (Season 8, episode 10, 00:04)

In English subtitles the word "spectacular" was used by the word "flag+tacular" to indicate fun with flags. We have the similar play on words in the translation, which means that the effect is the same as in the original subtitles.

(4.5) Wait, did you play badminton or sad-minton?

Čekaj, jesi igrao badminton ili jadni-nton? (Season 8, episode 19, 17:31)

As a result of mocking to someone, the word "bad" in "badminton" is replaced with "sad" which results with "sadminton". This kind of mockery is the same because the same word play is made in Croatian translation.

(4.6) I was sitting in a restaurant with Penny and Bernadette, drinking water—carbonated as it was a special occasion. Penny's friend Zack stopped by and said hello and I said "hoo." - Who? - Zack. - Then why did you ask? - Ask what? - Who. - Zack. - All right, let's start over. What did you say when Zack walked in? - "Hoo." - Zack. - Why do you keep saying "Zack"? - Because you keep saying "who." - I'm not saying "hoo" now. I said "hoo" last night. And the answer was Zack, correct? - There was no question. I simply said "hoo."

Sjedila sam u restoranu i pila vodu. Gaziranu jer je prigoda bila posebna. Zack nas je pozdravio, a ja sam rekla huu. – Who? – Zack. – Zašto si onda pitala? – Pitala što? – Who? – Zack. – Počnimo iznova. Što si rekla kad je Zack došao? – Huu. – Zack. – Zašto stalno ponavljaš Zack? – Zato što ti stalno govoriš who. – sad ne govorim huu. Govorila sam sinoć. – A odgovor je bio Zack, zar ne? – Nije bilo pitanja. Samo sam rekla huu. (Season 4, episode 10, 07:14)

"What" has a humorous effect in this case is a misunderstanding because of the homophones. When translated those homophones are lost. The translator left them unchanged here, and because of that there could be a lack of understanding. In cases like this, translators sometimes have to compensate between two solutions.

(4.7) We are out of herbal tea. Do you have any? - Okay, let me check. - Some hiney would be nice, too. - Hiney? - Honey.

Nemamo više biljnih čajeva. Imaš li ti? – Idem pogledati. – Dobro bi mi došlo i malo beda. – Beda? – Meda. (Season 2, episode 10, 20:26)

The humorous effect is achieved by unintentional misuse of a word "honey" (hiney), which is deliberately misused in translation too.

From seven examples in this category four of them are translated from PUN into the PUN. In the examples 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 play on words is replaced with another play on words in order to achieve humorous effect in the translation.

One example, 4.2 is translated using EDITORIAL TECNIQUES.

One example 4.6 is a PUN ST which is transposed in the PUN TT.

It seems that the best solution to the problem of translating this category is the one from the example 4.4. Here, the translator uses a method of joining two words to get a new word by translating the words and joining them again. The effect is the same, and the humorous effect from the original text is achieved among Croatian viewers.

3.5 Mixed metaphor

According to the write-out-loud.com "Mixed metaphors are the confusing/amusing result of combining well known clichés." (Dugdale 2006-16)

(5.1) Boy, that is a treat that's hard to beat. Get the Mad Hatter on the horn, I'm having a tea party.

Čovječe, teško da šta može nadmašiti ovu poslasticu. Pozovi ludog šeširđiju, održavam čajanku. (Season 6, episode 7, 15:11)

Today the expression "mad hatters" means "a crazy person. Origin: in old times, hatters (people who make hats) used mercury in the process. Mercury is toxic and causes insanity after long exposure." (Rader 1996-2016) Get on the horn means "to use the telephone." (Urban Dictionary) By merging those two expressions the speaker achieved humorous effect which is successfully transmitted in translation as well.

(5.2) That nag off your back, right? I mean, you're not a bicycle; Why's she riding you like that?

Shvaćam te. Pokušavaš se riješiti tog zabadala, zar ne? Mislim, nisi konj, zašto joj dopuštaš da te jaši? (Season 8, episode 2, 15:15)

"To ride (someoone's) back" is an idiom meaning "to frequently or constantly harass, nag, or upbraid someone to do, accomplish, or complete something." (Farlex 2003-16) In this case it is mixed with the expression "to ride a bike". There is a similar expression in Croatian, meaning the same, only with the word horse, not with bicycle.

From two examples of humor translation both of them are translated from PUN into the PUN. Examples 5.1 and 5.2 have play on words in the original with is adjusted in translation in order to achieve as similar humorous effect as possible in translation.

From two examples stated above, the one which has better solution to the problem is the example 5.2. There, the idiomatic expression is used in the original, and the translation is not translated literally, but the idiom with the same meaning is used.

3.6 Joke

According to the write-out-loud.com "A joke is something said or done to evoke amusement or laughter. In verbal humor the term often means an amusing story with a punch line - a humorous ending." (Dugdale, 2006-16)

(6.1) If you married the famous rock guitarist Johnny Winter, you'd be Summer Winter.
Ako se udaš za gitarista Johnnyja Wintera, bit ćeš Summer Winter. (Season 2, episode 17, 18:11)

This is a joke with double meaning of the words which mean both – personal name and surname and the time of the year. It does not have the same humorous effect when translated, since the names cannot be translated. Names of times of the year are different and also not used as personal names or surnames in Croatia.

(6.2) I don't know what your odds are in the world as a whole, but as far as the population of this car goes, you're a veritable Mack daddy.
Ne znam kakve su ti šanse u ukupnoj populaciji, ali u ovom si autu glavni faker. (Season 1, episode 1, 22:18)

"Mack daddy" is a slang expression meaning "a slick womanizer."(Merriam-Webster) The translator used one of the expressions which are commonly used in Croatian to translate it.

(6.3) So what are you drinking? - Well, it's been a rough day. I usually go chamomile tea, but I don't think that's going to cut it. - You could have a Long Island Iced Tea. - Will that calm my nerves? - It's calmed the pants off me a couple of times. - Sold.
Što piješ? – Bio je težak dan. Obično pijem čaj od kamilice, ali mislim da neće biti dovoljno. – Mogao bi popiti ledeni čaj Long Island. – Hoće li me to smiriti? – Meni su od njega nekoliko puta spale gaće. – Može. (Season 6, episode 7, 13:58)

The original idiom is "to scare the pants off someone" which means "to frighten someone very badly." (Farlex 2003-16) Here, the reverse meaning was used to achieve humorous effect. Since

there is no such an expression in Croatian, the translator decided to use the expression with pants as well, whose meaning explains this joke.

(6.4) I think we're gonna go. - Are you sure? We were making fun of failed careers. We didn't get to tap the juicy vein that is Howard's. - Hey, I work at the same university you do. - Yes, and Hawkeye's in the Avengers, but no one ever says, "Help, Hawkeye!"

Idemo mi. – Jeste li sigurni? Rugamo se propalim karijerama. Nismo ni došli do sočnih dijelova o Howardu. – Radimo na istom sveučilištu. – I Hawkeye je u Osvetnicima pa nitko ne govori „Upomoć, Hawkeye!" (Season 7, episode 17, 02:41)

The joke is based on the fictional character and it is understandable to everyone who is familiar with the plot of the movie they are talking about. The same thing is about the viewers in Croatia, that is why it was enough only to translate the joke, without any explanations and adjusting.

(6.5) It's fine. All my friends love this story. They call you Clogzilla. - Get it? Because you clogged up her bathroom like a radioactive monster! - Yeah, yeah, I get it. - Howie. - Well, hey, it's not like cotton candy comes out of you.

U redu je. Svi moji prijatelji vole vou priču. Zovu te Začepljivaczilla. – Shvaćaš? Zato što si joj začepio kupatilo kao radioaktivno čudovište! – Da, da, shvaćam. – Howie. – Pa, hej, nije kao pamučna bombona izlazi iz tebe. (Season 7, episode 20, 13:55)

The joke is made by using a play on words, more precise by joining the words “clog” and “gorilla”. The same thing is made in the translation where the translator joined those two words after translating them into Croatian.

(6.6) Why did the chicken cross the Mobius strip? To get to the same side-- bazinga! All right, a neutron walks into a bar and asks, "How much for a drink?" The bartender says, "For you, no charge."

Zašto je kokoš prešla Mobiusovu vrpcu? Da dođe na istu stranu. Bazinga! Neutron dođe u bar i pita: Koliko je piće? A barmen mu odgovori: Za tebe – bez naboja. (Season 3, episode 18, 18:01)

In this part Sheldon uses scientific facts to make jokes. The first one, about Mobius tape makes sense in Croatian, because those who understand what Mobius tape really is, understand the joke

as well. The problem is with the other joke, the one about neutron. The word charge has double meaning in English, and because of that the joke is ambiguous, which could not be achieved in the translation.

From six examples five are translated from PUN into the PUN. In the examples 6.2, 6.3 and 6.5 there is a play on words which is adjusted in the translation in order to achieve humorous effect in the translation. Example 6.4 is translated literally.

In the example 6.6 PUN is translated into ZERO. Double meaning is lost in the translation, but the translator could have used the brackets to make the translation more clear, which is further discussed below the example.

The best example of humor transaltion from this category is the example 6.2. In this example a slang expression with which the humorous effect is achieved, is changed with another, Croatian slang expression which is commonly used and with which the translator achieves the same humorous effect among Croatian viewers as it is achieved among the English speaking ones.

3.7 Extended or running gag

According to the write-out-loud.com “An extended or running gag is an amusing situation or line recurring throughout a story or performance.” (Dugdale 2006-16)

(7.1) You actually had it right in the first place. Once again, you've fallen for one of my classic pranks. Bazinga!

Ono prije bilo je točno. Opet sam te prešao svojom antologijskom psinom. Bazinga! (Season 2, episode 23, 00:36)

“Bazinga” is an expression meaning “a word used in accompaniment with a funny prank. It is used instead of phrases such as "got you" or "fooled you".” (Collins Dictionary) It becomes popular because of the main character in this TV series, Sheldon Cooper, who commonly uses the expression in order to inform the others that he was joking. Since this is newly used expression there is no translation for it, and in Croatian it is also used in its original form.

(7.2) What do you want me to do? - Sing Soft Kitty. - That's only for when you're sick. - Homesick is a type of being sick.

Što želiš od mene? – Pjevaj mi meku macu. – To samo kad si bolestan. – Tuga za domom neka je vrsta bolesti. (Season 2, episode 21, 18:18)

Situation with singing the song also often appears throughout the series and because of that it is associated with it and always funny when it appears. It is translated literally, since we do not have something to replace it.
From the two examples in this category, both of them – 7.1 and 7.2 are translated from PUN into the PUN and both of them are translated literally.
The solution which is better, and more simple one in this category is the solution from the example 7.1 where the humorous effect is achieved with the saying "Bazinga!" It has the same humorous effect among English and Croatian speaking viewers since this saying became popular among the spectators of this TV series.

3.8 Shaggy dog story

According to the write-out-loud.com "This is a long rambling story filled with irrelevant detail and repeated phrases, which has an absurd anti-climactic punch line. It leads its listeners on in the expectation there will be an ending to make sense of all they've heard. Often there isn't, or there will be a really weak pun. Its pointlessness is the joke!" (Dugdale 2006-16)

(8.1) Way ahead of you. I was thinking of moving Big Boy to Thursdays, and just dropping Souplantation. - Really? - The name always confused me anyway. Souplantation. You can't grow soup.

Souplantation bih izbacio. – Zbilja? – Ime me zbunjuje. Plantaža juhe. Ne možeš uzgajati juhu. (Season 1, episode 5, 18:15)

Since "Souplantation" is a chain of restaurants which is well known in the United States, the humorous effect is much better for the English speaking viewers. It is still funny when translated literally, but the translator left the original name of the restaurant untranslated, since the names are in most cases left in their original form.

(8.2) Superman doesn't sweat on Earth. - He's invited for dinner in the Bottle City of Kandor. He miniaturizes himself, enters the city where he loses his superpowers.

Before dinner, his host says, "Who's up for a little Kryptonian tetherball?" Superman says "Sure," works up a sweat, comes back to Earth, his uniform now stained with indestructible Kryptonian perspiration. - Boo ya.

Superman se ne znoji na zemlji. – Dobro, pozovu ga na večeru u Kandor u boci i izgubi moći. Domaćin kaže: Tko je za malo loptanja prije večere? Superman pristane, oznoji se i vrati na Zemlju s neuništivim mrljama znoja. – Eto ti sada! (Season 2, episode 11, 00:50)

The statement itself is again pointless; the only thing which could make it difficult in the translation is the name of the game "tetherball" which is not popular in Croatian, and because of that the translator simply decides to use the expression *loptanje* which is a good replacement.

(8.3) Penny's home. Why don't we call her, have her go in the apartment, get your flash drive and e-mail you the paper? - But the flash drive is in a locked drawer in my desk. - So? - The key is hidden in my room. - So? - Penny would have to go into my room. - So? - People don't go in my room! - I see. It seems once again, you're caught between a rock and a crazy place. I hate when that happens.

Nazovi Penny da ode u naš stan i pošalje ti rad. – Stick je u zaključanoj ladici u stolu. – Pa? – Ključ je u mojoj sobi. – Pa? – Morala bi u moju sobu. – Pa? – Nitko ne smije u moju sobu. – Opet si se našao između dva ludila. – Mrzim kad se to dogodi. (Season 2, episode 17, 10:54)

Although the main point is again the fact that the statement is pointless, there is another one within it, and it is about the expression "to be caught between the rock and hard place", meaning "in a very difficult position; facing a hard decision." (Farlex 2003-16) It is deliberately changed into "between the rock and crazy place" to indicate insanity. This idiom is successfully replaced with the Croatian one, meaning the same thing.

(8.4) So what is all this? - My family history factoring in longevity, propensity for disease, et cetera. - Interesting. Cause of death for Uncle Carl was KBB. What's "KBB"? - "Killed by badger."

Što je sve ovo? – Povijest moje obitelji s godinama života, sklonosti bolestima i tako dalje. – Zanimljivo. Stric Karl umro je od UGJ-a? Što je UGJ? – Ubio ga je jazavac. (Season 4, episode 2, 00:41)

What achieves humorous effect this time are unnecessary abbreviations for unusual events. The expression itself is translated, and so is the abbreviation changed according to the initial letters of the translated words.

(8.5) But how am I going to get to work? - Take the bus. - I can't take the bus anymore. They don't have seat belts, and they won't let you latch yourself to the seat with bungee cords. - You tried to latch yourself to the seat with bungee cords? - I didn't try. I succeeded. But for some reason, it alarmed the other passengers and I was asked to de-bus.

Kako da dođem na posao? – Idi busom. – Ne mogu više. Nemaju pojaseve. A ne daju da se sam zavežeš užetom za bungee. – Pokušao si se sam zavezati? – Nisam pokušao. Uspio sam. To je uznemirilo suputnike i zatražili su da izađem. (Season 2, episode 5, 01:04)

"De-bus" is a verb meaning "(Military) to unload (goods) or (esp of troops) to alight from a motor vehicle." (Farlex 2003-16) The main point of this statement is translated, but the translator avoided using such a formal, military expression in Croatian subtitles.

(8.6) Walnut? - No, thank you. I'm allergic. - Oh, sure. My partner used to have that. He's dead now. - From nuts? - Nah, his wife shot him. But she was nuts, so in a way... - Nice story.

Orah? – Ne, hvala. Alergičan sam. – Jasno. I moj je partner bio. Sad je mrtav. – Od oraha? – Ne, žena ga je ustrijelila. Ali ona je bila tvrd orah pa... – Lijepa priča. (Season 5, episode 23, 16:45)

Despite of the meaningless of nuts in this itself, it is important to comment on the play on words on which this joke is based. In English, when someone is nuts, it means to be crazy, and in the Croatian subtitles another expression with nuts was used. It fits into the joke perfectly, but does not mean the same thing as in English. The meaning of the Croatian expression more refers to being stubborn than on being crazy, but the joke is preserved although it does not have exactly the same meaning as the original does.

(8.7) Amy's taking me to a memorial service. It's for one of her colleagues who is of Asian descent, so my planned conversational gambit is to casually remark that no

matter how deep they dig his grave, he'll never make his way back to China. - That should lighten the mood. - What can I say? I put the "fun" in funeral.

Amy me vodi na memorijalnu službu za njenog kolegu koji je azijskog porijekla, pa je moj planirani početak razgovora opaska da bez obzira koliko ga duboko zakopali, neće doći do Kine. – To bi trebalo podići atmosferu. – Što da kažem? Veliki sam zabavljač. (Season 6, episode 10, 02:15)

Regardless of the meaningless statement including the funeral, in the English version a play on words is used to make a joke out of the statement at the end. Sheldon states that he puts the word "fun" into the word "funeral" which gives it another meaning right away. When the expression is translated, it does not have the same play on words anymore, and because of that this part is left out and the Croatian version only points out that he is a great fun.

(8.8) Yeah, and I'm not sure that complete honesty is always the best thing for a relationship. - Yeah, he's right. Once, in a moment of candor, I told Amy that her hair reminded me of a duck caught in an oil spill. Well... she stormed out. Which was sad, because we were playing Scrabble, and I had all the letters to spell "persimmon."

Nisam siguran da je potpuna iskrenost najbolje za vezu. – U pravu je. Jednom, ui trenutku iskrenosti, rekao sam Amy da me njena kosa podsjeća na patku u naftnoj mrlji. Naljutila se. Što je bilo tužno, jer smo igrali Scrabble, i imao sam sva slova za riječ paradajz. (Season 8, episode 4, 11:45)

The interesting thing about translation of this statement is about translating the word "persimmon." It is translated as "tomato", probably because with its appearance it does remind of the tomato, but there is the same expression for it in Croatian. The translator probably decides to change it into tomato because this fruit is not very familiar to Croatian viewers.

(8.9) Are you all set for your trip? - Yeah, I think so. I just restocked the old PRK. - "PRK"? - Public restroom kit.

Spremni ste za put? – Mislim da jesmo. Obnovio sam zalihe za moj OJZ. – OJZ? – Oprema za javni zahod. (Season 8, episode 19, 00:32)

Another example of making an abbreviation for senseless thing is the one with the public restroom kit. The translator does the same thing in the translation, which is already made in the original.

From nine examples in this category eight of them are translated from PUN into the PUN. Examples 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 and 8.9 are translated literally and in that way the same humorous effect is achieved in the translation as it is in the original subtitles. In the example 8.8 play on words is changed into the other play on words which has the same effect in the TT as it has in the ST.

The only exception in this category is example 8.7 which is translated by using EDITORIAL TECHIQUES. Part of the humorous effect is kept in the translation, but the play on words is lost.

The best example of humor translation in this category is the example 8.6 where in the original the character uses a play on words using the word “nuts”. The translation of this word is used in the Croatian subtitles, using different play on words, but with which the similar humorous effect is achieved and for that reason the translation of subtitles in this example is much more successful than the literal translation would have been.

3.9 Parody

According to the write-out-loud.com “To parody is to copy or imitate for comic affect the style of something or someone else. By its nature parody exaggerates and mocks the original. It only works if the person or thing being copied is well known to the audience.” (Dugdale 2006-16)

(9.1) But no more making fun of how I say tings. - You mean "tings" like "moo-stache"?

Ali bez ruganja kako izgovaram riječi! – Riječi kao brki? (Season 7, episode 16, 19:04)

The humorous thing in this parody is about saying the words in a wrong way. This type of mocking is transposed in translation as well. The translator moderates the words in order to be wrong and that is how he achieves the same effect as it was in the original.

There is one example for this category – 9.1 which is translated from PUN into the PUN. It has the play on words in the original which ischanged with the other play on words in the translation.

3.10 Irony

According to the write-out-loud.com “Irony is using words to imply the opposite of their literal meaning, or a situation where the outcome is the opposite from that intended or expected. Irony and sarcasm are often regarded as being synonymous. However sarcasm generally implies a stronger or more cutting remark and contains intent to ridicule unkindly.” (Dugdale, 2006-16)

(10.1) So, Christy, what are your plans? - Howard said he'd take me shopping in Beverly Hills. - Yeah, no, I meant plans to find someplace to live. Other than with me. Not that I don't love having you, but it's... It's a little crowded. - Penny, you're always welcome to stay with us. - Oh, terrific. Now we're running a cute little B & B.

Što planiraš? – Howard me vodi u kupnju u Beverly Hills. - Mislila sam na traženje stana. Lijepo je, ali nema mjesta. – Uvijek možeš biti kod nas. – Sad imamo i pansiončić. (Season 1, episode 7, 12:14)

“B&B” (Bed and Breakfast) is a noun meaning “a room to sleep in for the night and a morning meal, or a private house or small hotel offering this.” (Cambridge Dictionary Online) It is translated as *pansiončić* since this abbreviation is unknown in Croatian.

(10.2) I pulled the new Hellboy for you. It's mind-blowing. - Excuse me. Spoiler alert. - I didn't spoil anything. You told me it's mind-blowing. So, my mind is going into it pre-blown. And once a mind is pre-blown, it cannot be re-blown. - I'm sorry. - Said the Grinch to Christmas.

Donio sam ti novi Hellboy. Nevjerojatan je. – Nemoj mi govoriti o čemu se radi! – Nisam ti ništa rekao. – Rekao si da je nevjerojatan. Počet ću čitati u nevjerici. A kada tako počneš, ne možeš poslije povjerovati. – Oprosti. – Reče Grinch Božiću. (Season 2, episode 22, 01:26)

Statement of irony which is ironical in its origin is connected to the movie “How Grinch Stole the Christmas”. It is moderated in order to become an expression of irony which has the same meaning in Croatian.

There are two examples in this category. Both of them are translated from PUN into the PUN, and eaqch of them are translated literally. In that way, translator is in the possibility to transpose the humorous effect from the ST into the TT in the easiest way.

The better solution from the two examples in this category is the one from the example 10.1. Here, the translator does not transpose the abbreviation literally, because in Croatian the abbreviation "B&B" does not mean anything. This abbreviation is changed with the expression *pansionči"* which has similar effect as the original expression in the English subtitles.

3.11Satire

According to the write-out-loud.com "Satire is used to expose silliness, foolishness or stupidity through ridicule. It attacks with the aim of alerting its audience to problems and to make way for reform. The form has its roots in antiquity and is seen today in many forms." (Dugdale, 2006-16)

(11.1) What's "AFK"? - AFK. Away From Keyboard. - Oh, I see. - What does that stand for? - Oh, I see. - Yes, but what does it stand for?

Što znači AFK? – AFK. Nisam za tipkovnicom. – Ah, to. – Što to znači? – Ah, to. – Da, ali što to znači? (Season 2, episode 3, 04:20)

The joke is about an abbreviation, and it actually makes fun of the Sheldon who thinks that "oh" which is a ubiquitous interjection is an actual abbreviation. When translated "Oh, I see" does not mean as an abbreviation at all, so the translator decides to change it a bit, to sound like one to the Croatian viewers as well.

(11.2) No one is doing handwriting-recognition differential equation solving. Oh, dear Lord, shush. What? You have so few good ideas, Leonard. And you're just going to spill the beans.

Nitko ne radi jednadžbe s prepoznavanjem rukopisa. – Bože, tiho! – Što je? – Imaš tako malo dobrih ideja. A sve ćeš odati nekomu izvana? (Season 4, episode 12, 03:18)

"Spill the beans" is an idiomatic expression meaning "to give away a secret or a surprise." (Farlex 2003-16) In translation there is no such and idiom, so the original one is translated as an explanation.

(11.3) So all you have to do here is say you're sorry to Leonard, but say it sarcastically. Of course. He will hear it as an attempt to mend fences, as opposed to the withering condemnation you and I will know it to be.

Trebaš mu reći da ti je žao, ali sarkastično. – Naravno! Njemu će se činiti da se želim pomiriti, a mi ćemo znati kako ga žestoko osuđujem. (Season 4, episode 12,10:09)

"To mend fences" is an idiom meaning "to repair a relationship with someone." (Farlex 2003-16). Other than that expression the entire statement is easily transposed into Croatian as being the express of foolishness and naivety.

(11.4) I'm sorry. It's not my fault. I'm just incredibly smart, and everyone around here is dumber than a bag of rocks.

Žao mi je! Nisam ja kriv! Ja sam jako pametan, a ovdje su svi tupi kao stup. (Season 4, episode 14, 10:09)

Both of the subtitles, English and Croatian, satirically talks about everyone else, and expresses their stupidity when compared to the speaker, in this case, Sheldon. The original expression is changed with the Croatian equivalent which as well describes stupidity.

(11.5) She wants to have dinner and talk about my research. - An entire dinner to talk about your research? Where you going, the drive-thru at Jack in the Box?

Želi razgovarati o mom istraživanju uz večeru. – Cijela večera za to? Idete u autorestoran? – (Season 4, episode 15, 10:45)

Since "Jack in the Box" is "a children's toy consisting of a box with a model of a person inside it that jumps out and gives you a surprise when the top of the box is raised" (Cambridge Dictionary Online), and apart from making fun of the age of Leonard's date, Sheldon is also making fun about the field of his research. When we consider all of this the word "autorestoran" is not the best solution here. Since "Jack in the Box" is not very familiar in Croatia, it would be more appropriate to say *Vodi li te na Mc Drive po Happy Meal?* In that case, the satirical meaning would have stayed the same, and the expressions would be replaced with the more familiar ones.

There are five examples in this category. All of them are translated from PUN into the PUN. Examples 11.1, is translated literally. Examples 11.2 and 11.4 have an idiom translated with another idiom in the TT. Example 11.3 has the idiom in the ST which is translated with an

explanation. In the example 11.5 there is a different play on words in the ST and in the TT, but it has the same meaning.
The best example of the humor translation from this category is the example 11.4 where the original expression of describing how someone is dumb, is transalted with the other expression which descriebes how someone dumb is, although when translated literally two of them are not the same.

3.12 Overstatement

According to the write-out-loud.com “Overstatement is deliberately maximizing a subject often with hyperbolic exaggeration. In the first group of those overstatements subjects are simply minimalized as a result of what they have a humorous effect. There are differences or difficulties in the translation of this type of humor.” (Dugdale 2006-16)

(12.1) You're sitting in your apartment, it's late, you're alone. Your hypothalamus is swimming in a soup of estrogen and progesterone and suddenly even Leonard seems like a viable sexual candidate. Or a "hookup" as it's referred to by today's urban youth.

U stanu si, kasno je, sama si. Hipotalamus ti pliva u juhi estrogena i progesterona. Iznenada ti se i Leonard čini kao moguć kandidat za seks. Ili za praskanje, kako to zove urbana mladež. (Season 2, episode 9, 02:03)

“Hook up” is a slang phrasal verb meaning “to become sexually involved with someone, especially casually.” (Farlex 2003-16) It is successfully replaced with the Croatian slang expression.

(12.2) So what do you think, Howard? It's not that bad, right? - A little electrical tape, some solder... - Are you insane? I've seen space probes that crashed into the desert that were in better shape than this. You're right. MONTE's gone. We'll bury him in the morning. A simple ceremony. I'll speak. Leonard, you'll play your cello. - Honey, aren't you getting a little carried away? I mean, it's just a toy robot. - "Just a toy robot"?

Što misliš? Nije tako strašno, zar ne? – Malo izolirbanda, malo lema i ... - Zar si poludio? Vidio sam razbijene svemirske sonde u boljem stanju! Imaš pravo. MONTE je gotov. Pokopat ćemo ga ujutro. Jednostavan obrd. Ja ću govoriti. Ti ćeš svirati čelo. Zar nisi malo pretjerao? To je samo robot igračka. – Samo robot igračka? (Season 2, episode 12, 20:00)

In this fragment the obvious exaggeration is visible. There are no tricky elements to translate; the statement is an expression of exaggeration itself.

(12.3) "On or about the 28th day of April, "the accused did knowingly and with malice aforethought "deny access to the shared bathroom "in a time of emergency, to wit, my back teeth were floating.

Dana, 28. travnja optuženi je svjesno i s umišljajem uskratio pristup zajedničkoj kupaonici u hitnom slučaju, to jest došlo mi je do grla. (Season 4, episode 21, 02:20)

This exaggeration is accomplished with an expression "Back teeth were floating" meaning "when somebody has to pee so bad that the urine has filled their whole body all the way up to the back of the mouth and makes the back teeth float in urine." (Urban Dictionary) It is translated as an exaggeration as well, by using the similar expression with the same meaning. The only difference is that in the English one the word "teeth" plays the most important role, and in Croatian the word "throat" does it.

(12.4) Oh, doesn't seem like it. She got Sheldon to go to a psychic with her. - A psychic? He considers them not just mumbo jumbo, but extra-jumbo mumbo jumbo.

Natjerala je Sheldona da ide kod vidovnjaka s njom. – Vidovnjak? On misli o njima da su veća glupost od najveće gluposti. (Season 7, episode 21, 13:13)

This exaggeration is translated by the expression of exaggerating as well, also by using comparatives and superlatives. "Mumbo-jumbo" is an expression meaning "words or activities that seem complicated or mysterious but have no real meaning." (Cambridge Dictionary Online)

(12.5) Unless Leonard signs the new agreement in the next 41 seconds, this computer will send an e-mail to your parents in India saying that you're in a secret relationship with the whiter-than-Marshmallow-Fluff Leonard Hofstadter.

Ako Leonard ne potpiše nov sporazum za manje od 41 s, računalo će poslati poruku tvojim roditeljima u Indiji da si u tajnoj vezi s Leonardom koji je bjelji od puslice. (Season 4, episode 21, 17:37)

By this description Leonard is vividly described as being too white according to the Indian parents, because "Marshmallow – Fluff" is not popular in Croatian, the expression is changed with the other comparison in order to recreate this whiteness. The translator decides to use the word *puslica* which is a good decision, since the original one is connected to the food as well.
There are five examples in this category. All of them are translated from PUN into the PUN. Example 12.3 has idiom which is replaced by using an idiom of the same meaning in the translation. Examples 12.4 and 12.5 have the play on words replaced by another play on words in the translation with the role to achieve the same humorous effect and the meaning among the TT viewers. Example 12.1 has phrasal verb in the original which is replaced with the slang expression in the translation.
The best example of humor translation in this category is the example 3.12 where the idiomatic expression "back teeth were floating" is translated with the expression *došlo mi je do grla*. Expressions, the original and the transalted one have similar meaning, and they are only descriebed differently, one using "teeth" for the example, and the other using "throat".

3.13 Understatement

According to the write-out-loud.com "Understatement is deliberately minimizing whatever is being spoken about, often absurdly. Generally, the audience knows and that is what makes it amusing." (Dugdale, 2006-16)

(13.1) He said: "Little idea"? - Oh, well, no... Not... Not in those words. - In what words then, exactly? - Oh, you know... Gee. The exact words are... - It's more the spirit in which he said... - What did he say? - You had a lucky hunch.

Rekao je idejica? – Ne. Ne baš tim riječima. – Nego kojim riječima? – Riječi nisu... Važniji je duh u kojem su... – Što je rekao? Da ti se posrećila slutnja. (Season 1, episode 9, 11:16)

As an example of minimizing something, in this case accomplishment which is considered as an important one, the expression "lucky hunch" was used. "To have a hunch" means "to have an

idea about what did, will, or should happen; to have a feeling that something will or should happen." (Farlex 2003-16) This expression is used with one of the possible solutions for the situation when someone gets lucky. For example, *imao si sreće* would also be one of the possible solutions.

There is only one example in this category – 13.1. It is the expression which is translated from PUN into the PUN. A play on words in the original is translated with another play on words in TT. The other solution is offered in the comments below the example.

3.14 Statement of the obvious

According to the write-out-loud.com "The statement made is an observation that most people would not say because regardless of the subject, the comment highlights what most people regard as normal or expected - ie. Unworthy of comment! A statement of the obvious is generally delivered dead-pan or straight-faced." (Dugdale, 2006-16)

(14.1) In fact, when I was young, my neighbor's chicken got loose and chased me up the big elm tree in front of our house. - Chickens can't climb trees. - Thank God.

Kad sam bio dijete, susjedina me kokoš potjerala na stablo. – Kokoši se ne mogu penjati na stabla. – Hvala Bogu. (Season 3, episode 2, 07:49)

In this statement of the obvious, the fact that chickens cannot climb a tree, lies the most humorous thing of this declaration. There are no difficulties in the translation of it, and the joke is preserved in translation in the same way it as it is in the original.

(14.2) Why do I always have to carry the heavy stuff? - Well, it's very simple. In our ragtag band of scientists with nothing to lose, I'm the smart one, Wolowitz is the funny one, and Koothrappali is the lovable foreigner who struggles to understand our ways and fails. That leaves you, by default, as the muscle.

Zašto uvijek ja moram nositi teške stvari? – Jednostavno je. U našoj ekipi znanstvenika ja sam mozak, Wolowitz je šaljivac, a Koothrappali dražestan stranac koji nastoji shvatiti naše običaje, ali ne uspijeva. Pa ti ostaješ kao snaga. (Season 3, episode 17, 00:00)

In this statement, humor lies in the fact that the question is meaningless because it is obvious. The character feels obliged to explain it because the question is already raised, and to him, the question seems even more meaningless after explaining it. In the translation humorous effect is preserved only by literally translating it.
There are two examples in this category- 14.2 and 14.2. Both of those examples are translated from PUN into the PUN, and both of them are translated literally.

3.15 Exclusive humor

According to the write-out-loud.com "Exclusive humor is specific to a particular group of people for example in a workplace, players of a sport or members of a race. Outsiders find it hard to understand because they do not share the experience base it draws on. It often has its own vocabulary (jargon) as well." (Dugdale 2006-16)

(15.1) Uh, hey, what's Sheldon supposed to be? - Oh, he's the Doppler effect. - Yes. It's the apparent change in the frequency of a wave caused by relative motion between the source of the wave and the observer.

Što bi Sheldon trebao biti? – Dopplerov efekt. – Da. Promjena fekvencije vala zbog relativnog gibanja između izvora vala i promatrača. (Season 1, episode 6, 07:24)

"Doppler effect" is a noun meaning "a change in the observed frequency of a wave, as of sound or light, occurring when the source and observer are in motion relative to each other, with the frequency increasing when the source and observer approach each other and decreasing when they move apart. The motion of the source causes a real shift in frequency of the wave, while the motion of the observer produces only an apparent shift in frequency. Also called Doppler shift." (Farlex 2003-16) Doppler Effect uses the same expression in Croatian, and it is exclusive humor as well, because it is familiar mostly among the physicists which are a particular group of people. There are more examples in the TV series where the Doppler's effect is mentioned.

(15.2) Penny's taking you to the DMV. I'm going to bed. - Why Penny? - Because rock breaks scissors.

Penny će te odvesti, a ja idem spavati. – Zašto Penny? – Izgubila je na par-nepar. (Season 2, episode 5, 09:59)

This humorous statement is considered to be an example of exclusive humor, because in this TV series the important decisions are made by playing a game named “Paper, Rock, Scissors”. It is translated as one other game which is played in order to make decisions, even though the original one is also known in Croatia.

(15.3) Einstein defined insanity as "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. “ By that standard, Penny is cuckoo for cocoa puffs.

Einstein je rekao da je ludilo ponavljanje istih postupaka, a očekivanje drukčijih rezultata. Po tom je mjerilu Penny luda sto gradi. (Season 4, episode 9, 04:36)

“Cuckoo for Cocoa Puffs” is “an adjective meaning crazy.” (Online Slang Dictionary) This statement itself is an exclusive humor, because Sheldon always makes fun of Penny in different ways. The expression itself is translated into Croatian by using the one that vividly describes the act of being crazy.

(15.4) Sheldon, your friend is hurtin'. What do we do when someone's hurtin'? - Offer them a hot beverage. - And when they're drunk as a skunk, what beverage do we offer? - Coffee.

Prijatelj ti pati. Što činimo kad netko pati? – Nudimo mu topli napitak. – A kad su pijani kao smuk, koji napitak nudimo? – Kavu. (Season 5, episode 6, 06:41)

Exclusive humor here lies in the fact that Sheldon has a lack of social skills which he tries to improve by using social conventions. “Drunk as a skunk” is “an idiom meaning extremely intoxicated.” (Farlex 2003-16) It is one of the idioms which describe the state of being drunk, which is translated with the one of various expressions which describes that state in Croatian.

There are five examples in this category, and all of them are translated from PUN into the PUN. Example 15.2 is translated literally, in the example 15.3 the name of the game is replaced with another name of the game, for which the translator thinks is more appropriate and familiar to the TT viewers. In the example 15.2 adjective is replaced by another adjective.

In this category the best example of humor translation is the example 15.2. Here, the name of a game is changed with another name of the game which is more famous among Croatian viewers.

3.16 Absurdity

According to the write-out-loud.com "Absurdity is humor obviously lacking in reason. It is foolish or ridiculous and often includes the use of nonsensical language. In absurdity, the preposterous, incongruous, fantastical and whimsical are right at home." (Dugdale 2006-16)

(16.1) She's my twin sister. She thinks she's funny, but frankly, I've never been able to see it. - That's because you have no measurable sense of humor, Shelly. - How exactly would one measure a sense of humor? A humormometer?

Moja sestra blizanka. Misli da je duhovita, ali meni nije. - Zato što se tvoj smisao za humor ne može ni izmjeriti. – Kako bi se to mjerio smisao za humor? Humorometrom? (Season 1, episode 15, 02:10)

In this part an already known fact is stated. It is the fact that Sheldon does not have a measurable sense of humor. He answers in his manner, by asking what it, which can measure humor, and suggests humormometer is. This word does not exist itself, but it can be understood, because it is a joint of two words – "humor" and "meter". The same thing is in Croatian translation.

(16.2) Perhaps today is the day we finally find out what's inside the Magic Eight Ball. - Did it when I was four. It's an icosahedral die floating in tinted blue water. - Man, call "spoiler alert" before you say things like that.

Možda danas napokon doznamo što se nalazi u čarobnoj kugli. – Rastavio sam je u 4.g. ikosaedar u plavoj vodi. – Prije takvih stvari trebaš reći spoiler alert! (Season 2, episode 12, 00:52)

The joke is also lacking in reason, apparently because someone actually separates the magic ball, and knows what is inside. "Spoiler alert" is "a reviewer's warning that a plot spoiler is about to be revealed." (Merriam-Webster) The same thing is transposed into Croatian. Although, the word "spoiler" is taken from English for this purpose, not the entire expression is used. It is much more common to find it written as *upozorenje, spoiler/spojler.*

(16.3) I cannot believe they're letting her just use them like that. Anything she wants, they go panting after her like trained dogs. You know last week, she had Howard

drive all the way to her uncle's house in Orange County to pick up her TV? - You once had Leonard and me get your television from your ex-boyfriend. - Apples and oranges here, Sheldon.

Kako dopuštaju da ih tako iskorištava? Dašću za njom kao dresirani psi. Znaš da je Howard vozio u Orange da joj donese telku? – Leonard i ja išli smo po tvoj televizor bivšem dečku. – Kruške i jabuke! (Season 2, episode 19, 15:42)

"Orange County" is "a county of southern California south of Los Angeles between the Santa Ana Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. It developed as an orange growing region and is now a large population center." (Farlex 2003-16) The humorous effect lies in the absurdity of double measures where the expression "apples and oranges" is used. It is an idiom meaning "a comparison of apples and oranges occurs when two items or groups of items are compared that cannot be practically compared." (Farlex 2003-16) In Croatian translation an equivalent *kruške i jabuke* is used. It has the same meaning as "apples and oranges", but here it does not overlap with the name of the county in southern California. Since the humorous effect is based on the absurdity, it is preserved in this case.

(16.4) Ugh, Toby, what did you do in a past life to be so disgusting now? - His name isn't Toby. Toby is an absurd name for a cricket. - What would you name him? - An appropriate cricket name. For example, Jiminy.

Toby, što si radio u prošlom životu da si sada tako odvratan? – Ne zove se Toby. To je apsurdno ime za cvrčka. – Kako bi ga ti nazvao? – Prikladno. Recimo Cvrčko. (Season 3, episode 2, 12:19)

The meaningless debate about an appropriate name for a cricket is led. The names they debate about are the usual name "Toby" which was not replaced in the translation, and the usual name for a cricket which was "Jiminy". In the translation "Jiminy" is replaced with the Croatian equivalent *Cvrčko* which is the most common name for a cricket in Croatia.

(16.5) You think she's taking advantage of him? - Oh, of course not. She wouldn't do something like that. She's deaf. - Deaf women can't be gold diggers?

Misliš da ga iskorištava? – Ne. Ne bi ona to. Gluha je. - Gluhe žene ne mogu biti sponzoruše? (Season 5, episode 4, 11:22)

"Gold digger" is a noun meaning "a woman who becomes or tries to become romantically involved with a rich man in order to get money and gifts from him." (Merriam-Webster) In translation this expression is replaced with the Croatian equivalent which is a word *sponzoruša.*

(16.6) Oh, he'll be back. Wine and a girl in the dark-- he's gonna be bored out of his mind.

Vratit će se on. Vino i cura u mraku? Umrijet će od dosade. (Season 5, episode 15, 13:59)

"Bored out of your mind" is an idiom meaning "extremely bored." (Farlex 2003-16) It is replaced with the Croatian idiom *umrijeti od dosade* which has the same meaning.

There are six examples in this category. Five of them are translated from PUN into the PUN. Examples 16.1 and 16.6 are translated literally. In the original text, examples 16.4 and 16.7 have an idiom which is replaced by another idiom in the translation. In the example 16.5 a name from the original is replaced by the translated equivalent in the TT.

In the example 16.2 PUN ST is transposed to the PUN TT. That is understandable to the Croatian audience because there is no proper replacement, and because of that, this expression is mostly used.

The best example of humor translation in this category is an example 16.3 where idiomatic expression "apples and oranges" is translated with almost the same idiomatic expression *kruške i jabuke*. Although similar, the expression is not completely the same and it cannot be translated literally.

3.17 Sounds in verbal humor

According to the write-out-loud.com "The sounds words make either by themselves, or in sequence, adds to the overall funniness. It's an extra layer of pleasure: sound combined with meaning heightens or intensifies the humor." (Dugdale 2006-16)

(17.1) That's why we fight wobots. If you're not there, you'll be exposed to widicule. - I'm curious, what part of America is that accent from?

Zato se bovimo vobotima. Ne dođete li, bit ćete predmet vugla. – Iz kojeg je dijela SAD-a taj naglasak? (Season 2, episode 12, 08:57)

Here, the sound which is produced because of the speech defect enhances the humor, and actually creates one because the entire joke is preserved on it. The interlocutor, since he is a foreign speaker, does not recognize it as a speech defect, but thinks that it is a type of accent. Changes are made in the same way and in the same words in the translation as in the original in order to preserve the joke and to faithfully evoke it to the Croatian viewers.

Alliteration

According to the write-out-loud.com "This is the repetition of the beginning sound(s) of words" (Dugdale 2006-16)

(17.2) Oh, my God, this is the best cobbler I've ever had. - It was always Sheldon's favorite. You know what the secret ingredient is? - Love? - Lard.

Nikada nisam jela bolji voćni kolač. – Sheldonov omiljeni. Znate što je tajni sastojak? – Ljubav? – Svinjska mast. (Season 1, episode 4, 15:38)

As a result of the repetition of the beginning sounds on the beginning of the words alliteration is taken place to be a part of the humor in the English subtitles. When translated, those words lack in humorous effect of the alliteration, but the other part of humor is preserved.

(17.3) How long can he keep this up? - I heard about this professor at MIT who melted down, bought a van, and spent the rest of his life as a mobile dog groomer. - He never went back to the university? - Only to shampoo Professor Shamburg's shih tzu. Sheesh.

Koliko može izdržati ovako? – Jedan profesor s MIT – a prolupao je, kupio kombi i vodio moblini salon za pse. – Nije se vratio na sveučilište? – Samo da šamponira si čua profesora Shamburga. – Sisuse. (Season 3, episode 14, 15:52)

In this example, apart from the humorous effect from the concept of statement, humor is reached by using the alliteration. The part of this alliteration is saved, but the part of humor reached because of the meaning of the words is lost. "Sheesh" is an idiomatic expression meaning "Damn! Shit!" (Farlex 2003-16) and it is left in its initial form in the translation meaning the dog's name only. The translator did it in order to preserve the effect of alliteration.

Assonance

According to the write-out-loud.com "These are words sharing similar internal vowel sounds." (Dugdale 2006-16)

(17.4) Oh, you got yourself a loom? How nice! Thank you. Honey, why'd you get a loom?- I was working with luminous fish, and I thought... "loom."

Imaš tkalački stan. Baš lijepo. – Hvala. – Zašto si ga nabavio? – Radio sam na svjetlećim ribicama i pomislio... tkalački stan. (Season 1, episode 4, 11:11)

Since "luminous" means "mitting light, especially in the dark; shining." (Farlex 2003-16) "Luminous fish" is the one shining in the dark. "Loom" on the other hand is "a noun meaning apparatus for making thread or yarn into cloth by weaving strands together at right angles." (Farlex 2003-16) Although those two words do not have any connections in meaning, since they sound similar when spoken they might remind of each other. In the translation this effect is lost, because when translated, in order to preserve the meaning, those words are different in form.

Onomatopoeia

According to the write-out-loud.com "These are words imitating or sound like their meaning when spoken." (Dugdale 2006-16)

(17.5) All aboard! Woo-woo! (normal voice): It's official. I'm an H-O trainiac.

Ukrcavanje! Sad je službeno. Ja sam HO manijak! (Season 5, episode 3, 10:26)

The humorous effect here is achieved by using the imitation of the train sound in the original subtitles. In the translation this is omitted, although the expression "tu-tuuu" is often used to imitate the sound of a train.

(17.6) Yeah, and my eighth favorite episode of Professor Proton was "Alka-Seltzer Rocket." You said, "Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh, what a blast-off it is."

Moja osma omiljena epizoda Profesora Protona je raketa od šumećih tableta. Nazvali ste raketu šumeći prašak. (Season 7, episode 8, 18:20)

In this onomatopoeia the rhyme is also included in the original subtitles. In the translation there is a lack of rhyme, as well as the lack of onomatopoeia. Rhyme is very easy to lose in the translation, but there is a possibility to preserve the onomatopoeia, by using "šššššššš šumeći prašak" instead of simple translation avoiding all of those elements.

Rhyme

According to the write-out-loud.com “To use words having similar or the same sounds. Dr. Seuss is the master of absurdity plus rhyme.” (Dugdale, 2006-16)

(17.7) May I say one last thing? - Only if it doesn't rhyme. - All right. Good night.

Smijem li reći još samo jednu stvar? – Samo ako se ne rimuje. – Dobro. Laku noć. (Season 2, episode 21, 17:34)

Since the only and main joke here is a humorous effect achieved by rhyme the more important thing than literal translation would be making another rhyme which is not done here. One of the possible solutions would be: “Moram poć’. Laku noć.”

(17.8) Hey, what up, science bitches?

Što ima, pičke znanstveničke? (Season 1, episode 4, 02:07)

Although there is no rhyme in the original expression which includes the curse word, there is one in the translation. This time the translation is even funnier than the original because of this play on words.

(17.9) This is Sheldon Cooper. - Fine. Shelly. - Yes, that does sound like a girl's name. - No, it doesn't bother me. Yes, "Smelly Shelly" does bother me.

Ovdje Sheldon Cooper. Dobro, Shelly. - Da, zvuči kao žensko ime. - Ne smeta mi. Smelly Shelly mi smeta. (Season 4, episode 10, 14:46)

Rhyme is achieved by using a mocking nickname. In translation it is left in its original form because the other rhyming equivalent could not be found. Since the foreign word is used, it may lack the humorous effect since the viewers might not understand its meaning.

(17.10) Are you familiar with meme theory? - I'm familiar with everything, but go on. - Meme theory suggests that items of gossip are like living things that seek to reproduce using humans as their host. I'm no stranger to memetic epidemiology. At Johnson Elementary School, the phrase "Shelly Cooper's a smelly pooper" spread like wildfire. - I should think so. That's gold.

Poznaješ li teoriju mema? – Poznajem sve, ali nastavi. – Ona kaže da se tračevi poput živih bića koja se razmnožavaju, a ljudi su im domaćini. – Poznata mi je memetička epidemiologija. Fraza

Cooper Shelly smrdi cijeli brzo se proširila mojom školom. – Vjerujem. Odlična je. (Season 4, episode 29, 12:54)

Here, the humorous rhyming effect is preserved in the translation as well, since the translator decided to create a rhyme of the similar meaning as it is in the original. This is a great example of preserving the rhyme as well as its meaning.

(17.11) I got the results back. Have you developed any of the following symptoms? A growing nose, or perhaps a warm sensation in the trouser region? Also known as full-blown "liar, liar, pants on fire."

Dobrio sam nalaze. Imaš li neki od sljedećih simptoma? Narastao ti je nos ili ti gore noge? Poznato i kao „lažove, lažove, hlače ti gore." (Season 6, episode 19, 16:02)

The humorous effect is not achieved in the translation, since the translator decides to use a literal translation instead making a new rhyme which would make sense in Croatian; a good example would be *laži, laži oči maži.*

From eleven examples in this category seven are translated from PUN into ZERO. Examples of alliteration – 17.2 and 17.3 lost the effect of the alliteration in the translation. Example of the assonance 17.4 lost the effect of the alliteration in the translation because the translator decides to translate it literally in order to preserve the meaning. Examples of onomatopoeia 17.5 and 17.6 loose the effect of the onomatopoeia in the translation as well, but for the example 17.6 another soluition below the example is offered, and by using it the translator could have preserved the effect in the translation. In the examples of rhyme, in the examples 17.7 and 17.8 rhyme is lost in the translation, but for the examples 17.7 and 17.10 another solution is offered below the examples, and by using it the effect of rhyme would have been preserved in the translation.

In the example 17.9 subtitles are translated from PUN ST into the PUN TT:

In the example 17.10 PUN is translated using PUN and the meaning is preserved in the translated subtitles.

The example 17.1 is translated from PUN into the RELATED RHETORICAL DEVICE.

The best example of humor transaltion in this category is the example 17.8. There, we can see the better solution in the translation than in the English subtitles. The humorous statement does not rhyme in the English text, but it does in the Croatian subtitles. As a result of that, the better achieved effect is in the translation, which is a rare case in any translation.

4. Conclusion

At the end of this subtitle translation analysis, we can see that the translator puts a lot of effort to preserve humorous statements from the source language when translating them into the target language. Comments on the translation are mostly based on the possible solutions where the humorous effect is lost, but could have been preserved, because the main point of the research is not to point out the differences between the ST and the TT, but on the preserving the humorous effect in the translated subtitles. The easiest solutions are those where by literal translation PUN from the source language directly becomes PUN in the target language text. Those examples are rare.

In many cases the translator has to improvise, and then compensate for the idioms which do not have any meaning when translated literally. Translator has to replace them with different ones in the target language. Those idioms are completely different when translated into the target language, but have the same effect and meaning on the foreign viewers.

In this analysis the most of the examples where the humorous effect is lost, but could have been preserved is the translation of rhyme. For most of those examples the other possible solution is provided in the comments below every example.

When there was no other way, the translator used EDITORIAL TECHIQUES where because of the impossibility of transposing humor in any way, translator uses the explanation in brackets.

At the end, it is important to state, that when translating humor the sense of humor of the translator plays a big role in the translation. Most of the time translator has to improvise and make new humorous statements, because those from the source text do not make sense or do not produce humorous effect when translated. The other thing which makes even more problems is that somehow, humorous statement from the target text has to be connected with the original one to make sense.

This analysis shows that it is important to know the cultural background of the source language and the target language, not only the language itself, to be able to transpose and adjust humorous statements to the foreign viewers and achieve the best possible effect when translating those statements.

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