

The present study investigates English lexical nominalizations in terms of their syntax and semantics, and contrastively, in terms of their translations into Norwegian and Swedish. The material comprises 586 English lexical nominalizations and their Norwegian and Swedish translations collected from seven popular science texts in the *English-Norwegian Parallel Corpus* (ENPC) and the *English Swedish Parallel Corpus* (ESPC). The general theoretical orientation is systemic functional linguistics, from which the central notion *grammatical metaphor* is taken. To address issues related to the argument structure of deverbal nouns, Grimshaw's theory of argument structure is used (1990).

The investigation shows that lexical nominalizations are used more extensively in the English source texts compared to their Norwegian and Swedish translations: approximately 1/5 of the source lexical nominalizations were turned into clauses. A clausal translation is particularly favored if the lexical nominalization includes many adnominal elements; if it functions as subject in the sentence; if it functions as a postmodifier; if it follows a preposition, or if it is part of an expanded predicate.

Various explanations could be given for the translation with a clause. The thesis discusses typological differences, the lack of a good lexical correspondence of the source deverbal noun in the target languages and the possibility of there being different genre conventions in the three languages. There is also an extensive discussion of the meaning of lexical nominalization. It is shown that if the argument structure of deverbal nouns is analysed in more detail, semantic types of lexical nominalizations characterized by differences in nouniness and grammatical metaphor can be determined. These semantic types have partly different translation correspondences, suggesting that the relationship between the lexical nominalization and the clause is related both to meaning and form. It is therefore necessary to consider both the syntax and semantics of lexical nominalizations in discussions of nominal and verbal style and in theoretical discussions of grammatical metaphor.

The study also shows that two parallel translations can reveal differences in form both between lexical nominalizations in the source and target languages as well as between the two target languages.

Key words: lexical nominalization, grammatical metaphor, deverbal noun, argument structure, popular science, corpus, nominal style, verbal style, contrastive linguistics, English/Norwegian/Swedish.