

# Contrasting Relativization in some Naomi Alderman's Novels and their French Translation from a Syntactic and a Semantic Perspectives

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## Abstract:

Language in usage is the result of various operations. Linguistic operations are worth studying so as to uncover the subtleties which make languages to be unique in their inner organization. These operations occur within various linguistic units (words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and texts) and can be studied at various levels of linguistic analysis (Dutoit, 2000). Provided the wide range of such operations, the notion of *clause operations* is therefore the subject of this article; more specifically, this study intends to contrast relativization from a syntactic and semantic point of view based on an English-French translation corpus (extracted from three novels by Naomi Alderman and their French translations). With the aid of the Meaning-Text Theory (MTT), the findings suggest that there are convergent and divergent syntactic properties, shared syntactic processes, and common syntactic functions related to the translational renderings of relative markers. Moreover, the contrastive analysis of relativization from a semantic viewpoint reveals some semantic functions undertaken by relative markers, some correspondence types between relatives of different versions of the corpus, and some translation procedures used by translators while rendering the overall meaning of the source text.

**Key words:** Relativization, Translation Corpora, Clause Operations, Language Contrastive Studies, Linguistic Similarity, Linguistic Difference

## Introduction

Equivalence in general is a permanent quest in the translation field. The consideration of source texts and their translations always brings in mind the tendency to look into equivalence issues. This is understandable first because the translation activity places Man at the main position of the process; and second because Human is err. In this effect, Sofyan and Tarigan (2022) identify three types of translation weaknesses namely: translation skill, finding the right equivalent, and language competence. This study intends to contrast a linguistic aspect which is relativization in specific literary works originally written in English with their French versions.

Relativization has been widely studied in monolingual and multilingual contexts. On the first hand, this notion is subject of studies on European languages (Cristofaro & Ramat, 2007), on specific Asian languages (Prasithrathsint & Yaowapat, 2009; Huang, 2008; Mohan, 2006; Dayal, 1996; Ning, 1993; Cole and Hermon, 2005; etc.), on specific American languages (Tarallo, 1983; Guerrero, 2008; Lander, 2006; etc.), on African languages (Bilola, 2020; Hiraiwa, 2003; Poulos, 1982; Kawasha, 2002; Makasso, 2010; Atindogbe & Grollemund, 2017; Nyameye Abunya & Kweku Osam, 2022, etc.), and on Australian languages (Kapitonov, 2016; etc.). On the other hand, relativization is also studied within the framework of English-Arabic contrastive analysis (Hamdallah & Tushyeh, 1998), of English-Nigerian pidgin contrastive analysis (Mowarin & Maledo, 2010), of English-Shupamen contrastive analysis (Yiagnigni Ngoungoua, 2020), etc. Specific text studies on relativization from English and French contrastive analysis may exist, but are uneasily found. Therefore, this work will focus on this issue with the aid of Naomi Alderman's three (03) literary works and their French versions as our corpus sources. These corpus sources are: *Disobedience*<sup>2</sup> – *La désobéissance*<sup>3</sup>; *The Lessons*<sup>4</sup> – *Mauvais genre*<sup>5</sup>; and *The Power*<sup>6</sup> – *Le pouvoir*<sup>7</sup>. Naomi Alderman's above mentioned works seem to be not much explored in linguistic research in general and in contrastive linguistics in particular. Furthermore, literary works are chosen to the

<sup>1</sup> She is a British novelist from a Jewish origin. She is well-known through prizes she won (see <https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/naomi-alderman>). She is also a lecturer of creative writing at Bath Spa University. She is the author of several novels apart from the three mentioned in this work.

<sup>2</sup> It is a religious and ideological novel published by Penguin Random House in 2006 in United Kingdom. It has been translated into several languages such as French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, German, Chinese, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Has been translated from English by Héléne Papot and published by *Editions de l'Olivier* in 2008. Héléne Papot is a freelance translator and ATLF (*Association des Traducteurs Littéraires de France*) member. She has translated some other novels.

<sup>4</sup> Is a novel published by Viking in 2010 and by Penguin Random House in 2011.

<sup>5</sup> Is translated from English by Héléne Papot and published in *Editions de l'Olivier* in 2011

<sup>6</sup> Is a science-fiction novel published by Penguin Random House in 2016

<sup>7</sup> Is translated from English by Christine Barbaste and published by *Calmann-Lévy* in 2018. Christine Barbaste is an author and a translator. Her achievements can be consulted on [https://www.goodreads.com/author/168226.christine\\_barbaste](https://www.goodreads.com/author/168226.christine_barbaste)

detriment of other genres and other text types because of their aperture to linguistic innovation and creativity. This study aims therefore at identifying similarities and differences of how relativization is rendered in the translation process of some contemporary literary works from English to French.

This work will be carried out under several main axes: first of all, theoretical foundations will be laid down before presenting the investigation methodology. Then, data will be presented as well as findings. And finally, these findings will enable us to undertake a French- English contrastive syntactic and semantic analyses of relativization with the help of the chosen theoretical framework.

**1. Theoretical Foundations**

Theoretical foundations concern the clarification of the theoretical framework chosen and of some terms. In this section, these two items, which are the concern of theoretical foundations, will be discussed consecutively.

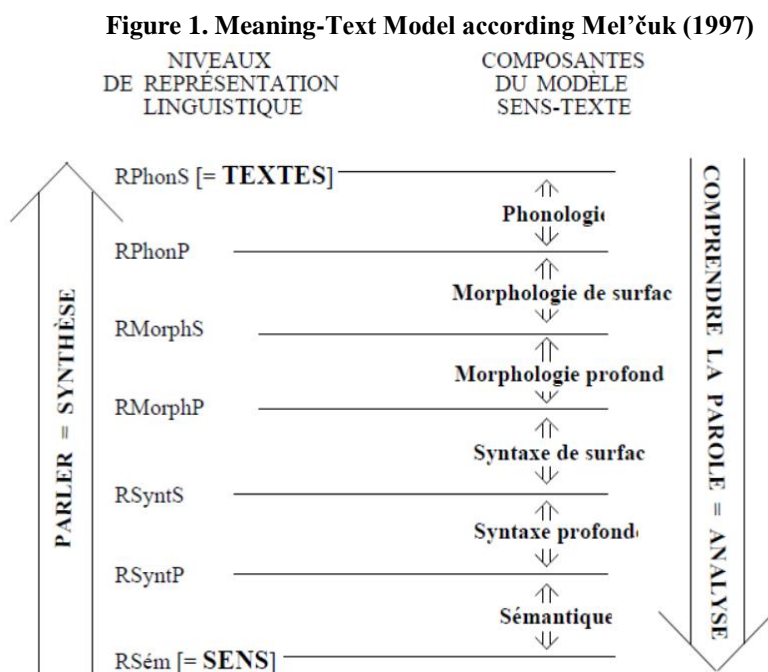
**1.1. Theoretical Framework**

For such a study, there are abundant theoretical frameworks that can be operational (see Safarti & Paveau, 2014). But considering the bilingual nature of this study, we think that theories from transductive grammars are more appropriate because they already offer a setting suitable to studies across two linguistic systems at least. For Kahane (2000), such grammars refer to formal grammars defining a correspondence between two families of structures. Transductive grammars among others encompass the Meaning-Text Theory (MTT) that will be helpful during the research process in this study.

MTT is a functional theoretical framework still in construction. The propounders who set its bases are Igor Mel'čuk and Alexandre Žolkovskij in Moscow in the 1960s (see Van Helden, 1998:186-187). It is based on three major postulates as Mel'čuk (2016) states : (1) *A natural language is a "Meaning-Text" correspondence*; (2) *The main tool for the description of languages is a Meaning-Text model*; and (3) *The sentence and the word are basic units of linguistic description*. Mel'čuk (2016: 23-24) further clarifies that

Postulate 1 specifies the OBJECT OF OUR DESCRIPTION; it expresses my general conception of natural language. Postulate 2 specifies the EXPECTED RESULT OF OUR DESCRIPTION; it expresses my conception of linguistic research. Postulate 3 specifies the LINK BETWEEN LANGUAGE AND ITS PROPOSED DESCRIPTION; it expresses my conception of the essential properties of natural language that have to be reflected in its description in an immediate and explicit way.

Its overall model is schematically presented as follows:



According to the above schema, one can notice that the Meaning-Text Model (MTM) provides two ways for description: synthesis (from meaning to texts) and analysis (from texts to meaning). No matter the way, there are stairs in-between the destinations (texts and meaning) highlighted by constituents (phonology, deep and surface morphology, deep and surface syntax, semantics) and by levels of linguistic representation. A word needs to be specifically said on some levels of linguistic representation.

The MTM provides 7 levels of linguistic representation: semantic representation, deep and surface syntactic representations, deep and surface morphological representations, deep and surface phonological representation. The first two categories of representation need further explanations because they are the concern of this study. The semantic representation

contains 4 structures namely: the basic semantic structure to which are attached the communicative semantic structure, the rhetorical structure, and the referential structure. The first three structures are seized within the linguistic context and correspond respectively to various dimensions of meaning: propositional<sup>8</sup>, communicative<sup>9</sup> and rhetorical<sup>10</sup> (see Mel'čuk & Milićević, 2020) whereas, the referential structure is seized thanks to the extralinguistic context.

Summarily, the deep and surface syntactic representations get 4 structures each, to the sole difference that some are 'deep' and others are 'surface'. In this regard, there are for each a syntactic structure, a communicative-syntactic structure, a prosodic-syntactic structure, and an anaphoric structure (see Lareau 2008). It is worth noting that these four syntactic structures, be it deep or surface, correspond to the structures of the semantic representation. Provided the objective pursued by this study, it will be limited to the basic structure of the semantic and syntactic representations.

## 1.2 Terminology Revisited

Some technical terms will be discussed under this section in order to clarify the conceptual landscape of this study. While undertaking this task, it seems efficient to take into consideration the realities of these terms suggested by each linguistic system in contrast. In this respect, our focus will be on notions like relativization and clause operations.

### 1.2.1. Relativization

The notion "relativization" can be apprehended from a syntactic point of view, or from its mechanical perspective, or from a procedural viewpoint. Nevertheless, some definitions of this notion will be borrowed from scholars: Crystal (2008: 411) posits: "In classical transformational grammar, the process of forming a relative-clause construction is known as relativization." For Dubois et al. (2002 :409),

En grammaire générative, on appelle relativisation la formation d'une relative par une transformation qui enchâsse une phrase (phrase constituante) dans le syntagme nominal d'une autre phrase (phrase matrice) au moyen d'un relatif.

It is noticed that there is globally a similarity between the way relativization is apprehended in French and in English in the sense that Crystal (2008) and Dubois et al. (2002) consider it as a process of forming relative constructions. This consideration opens doors for a comment: as relativization deals with the construction of relative clause, there is no construction without raw material and a set of elements useful in the process in order to get the final product. In this regard, independent clauses stand for raw material for relativization meanwhile relative clauses are the final product and relative markers are useful items contributing in relative clause constructions. We therefore consider relativization as a clause operation that makes use of at least two independent clauses and relative markers in order to get at the end a relative-clause construction. The on-going of the process entails some mechanisms like the loss of the nature of initial independent clauses (one of them becomes main and the other, a subordinate), the establishment of a subordination relation between the two clause by means of a relative marker; the creation of an antecedence link between the antecedent<sup>11</sup> and the relative marker used.

Each language has its catalogue of relative markers and the rules that govern their use. All of these are found in reference grammar books of various languages. In English for example, Crystal (2008) mentions: *who, which, whom, that, whoever, whomever, whosever, whatever, whichever, when, where, why, whose, which*. These relative markers have been classified in several ways<sup>12</sup> by authors, but Sag's (1997) typology of relatives will be used in this study, i.e., the classification of relative as being *Wh-relative, That-relative, Bare relative*. In French, the relative markers have got the same route as the English ones in the sense that they are listed and they suffer various classifications from scholars<sup>13</sup>. For instance, Igbeneghu (2013 :168) names some of them : *qui, que, quoi, dont, où, le quel, laquelle, lesquels, lesquelles, duquel, de laquelle, desquels, desquelles, auquel, à laquelle, auxquels, auxquelles, quiconque*. In this study, the intention is to make use of the typology based on the nature of the relative marker for the presentation of data from French corpus sources.

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<sup>8</sup> Propositional meaning is the semantic content proper of a linguistic expression... This meaning is called propositional because it can be described by means of logical propositions. (A logical proposition is an expression that, thanks to its form, can have a truth-value, i.e., be true or false in a given extralinguistic world) (Mel'čuk & Milićević, 2020:76)

<sup>9</sup> Has to do with the specification of the Speaker's communicative intentions – communicative and rhetorical meanings are not part of the propositional content; rather, they characterize the way in which this content is "packaged" for communication by the Speaker (Mel'čuk & Milićević, 2020:76)

<sup>10</sup> ...is a specification of the Speaker's stylistic intentions: whether he wants his utterance to be neutral, formal, colloquial, poetic, ironic, etc. (Mel'čuk & Milićević, 2020:77)

<sup>11</sup> See Creissels (2006 :207)

<sup>12</sup> Crystal (2008) : relative pronouns, relative adverbs, relative determiners, zero relatives ; etc.

<sup>13</sup> La typologie syntaxique de Creissels (2006) : les relatives postnominales, prénominales, détachées, enchâssées, etc. ; les relatives selon la typologie fonctionnelle de Creissels (2006 :207) qui ressort les relatives restrictives ou déterminatives, les relatives non-restrictives ou non-déterminatives ou explicatives, les relatives narratives et les relatives définitives, etc.

**1.2.2. Clause Operations**

Dubois et al. (2002) and Crystal (2008) already make mention of the notion *linguistic operation*. Dutoit (2000) further breaks down this notion into subcategories of operations, that is phonetic, lexical, morphological, syntactic, semantic operations; Culioli comes forth with enunciative operations (in French “les opérations énonciatives”) at the end of the 1960s as Eric Gilbert (1993) posits. From these innovations, it seems appropriate to break linguistic operations with regard to linguistic units. This breaking resulted from a conceptual innovation that is *clause operations*.

By clause operations, we mean linguistic mechanisms that take place either inside a clause or that take place to some extent in favour of a clause construction. They differ from the sequence modes in the sentence although both of them occur in the sentence. Sequence modes, known in French as *modes d’enchaînement*, are related to coordinating, subordinating, and juxtaposition processes (Tamine 2008) whereas clauses operations regroup items like cleft, relativization, comment clause, adverbials overlapping, topicalization, permutation, dislocation, etc.

**2. Methodology**

It is difficult to tackle even a single aspect in whole languages within a single study. The remedy for such a situation is the use of corpora which are sample of the whole body of the language(s) studied. In the field of contrastive linguistics, the issue of corpora gets a specific coloration to the point that it requires some specific explanations. First of all, corpora as a methodological tool in contrastive linguistics will be briefly discussed; then, placement mechanisms will be presented; and data collection strategies and data treatment paths will finally be tackled.

**2.1. Corpora as a Methodological Tool in Contrastive Linguistics**

The use of corpora in contrastive language studies is a new tendency in the discipline. This issue have been thoroughly discussed by so many authors among who Johansson (1998), Aijmer & Altenberg (2013), Fonkoua & Bayiha (2023). Authors’ extended views can be summarized in three aspects namely: corpora typology in contrastive linguistics, the typological criteria, and the typology levels.

In spite of the existing varying appellations of types of corpus by authors (Fonkoua & Bayiha, 2023), realities surrounding the notion of corpora can be explained in a different way, that is, starting from typology levels: the first typology level has to do with the number of languages in contrast where opposition used to be made between monolingual and multilingual corpora even if the first type is not the concern of contrastive studies. The following table summarizes what is said:

**Table 1. Perspective on corpora according to corpora typology at level 1**

1	Typology level	Typology criterion	Types of corpora
		<i>The number of languages</i>	Monolingual vs. Multilingual corpora

The second typology level concerns the relationship between subcorpora<sup>14</sup>, resulting to the distinction of three major types of corpora in the field of contrastive analysis which are: comparable corpora, translation or parallel corpora, and translation comparable corpora. Distinctive features of each type can be consulted in Bayiha’s thesis (not yet defended). The table below summarily features out what is said above:

**Table 2. Perspective on corpora according to corpora typology at level 2**

level 2	Typology	Typology criterion	Types of corpora
		<i>The relationship between multilingual subcorpora</i>	Translation corpora vs. comparable corpora vs. translation comparable

The third and the last typology level is in connection with the contrastive sense of subcorpora for each type of corpus of the second typology level. Schematically, these realities can be seen:

**Table 3. Perspective on corpora according to corpora typology at level 3**

<sup>14</sup> « De ce fait, un corpus est un ensemble des sous-corpus [subcorpora] et inversement, un sous-corpus [subcorpus] est un élément constitutif d’un corpus » Fonkoua & Bayiha (2023 :335)

Typology level 3	Typology criterion	Types of corpora
	<p><i>The contrastive sense of subcorpora</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Translation or parallel corpora</li> <li>➤ Comparable corpora</li> <li>➤ Translation comparable corpora</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Unidirectional vs. Bidirectional vs. Multidirectional corpora (see Fonkoua &amp; Bayiha 2023)</li> <li>→ Corpora with no contrastive sense</li> <li>→ Corpora containing a mixture of contrastive senses of translation corpora and comparable corpora</li> </ul>

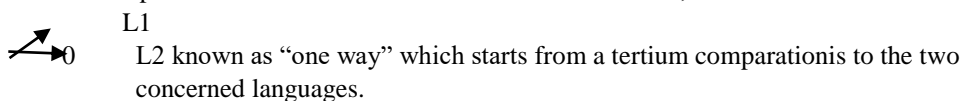
We advocate that contrastivists conducting corpus-based studies must always specify the realities of their corpus at these three typology levels. So, we reiterate that this study is based on a bilingual corpus which is parallel in nature with bidirectional sense<sup>15</sup> of the different subcorpora at first degree.

### 2.2. Placement mechanisms

Placement mechanisms deal with methods related to the positioning of languages in contrast and of subcorpora. The Saussurian dichotomy *langue vs. parole* is the mirror of the placement mechanisms respectively at the level of language and of subcorpora. In other words, the placement of languages in contrast corresponds to the *langue* part of the dichotomy while that of the subcorpora stand for the *parole* part of the dichotomy just because a subcorpus is sample of a specific use of a language which, in turns, seems to be more abstract. In this regard, it becomes obvious that there are two types of placement mechanisms namely: placement mechanisms at language level and placement mechanisms at subcorpora level.

As far as placement mechanisms at the language level are concerned, Pan &Tham (2007) make a distinction between *starting language* and *another language* in order to indicate the source of the comparative sense and its outcome. During the placement, there is always a language that enjoys the status of *starting language* and the other, the status of *another language*. Pan & Tham (2007: 251-256) suggest and discuss various possibilities of placing languages for multilingual comparisons:

- Unidirectional placement with its two further cases: L1 → L2 (from English to French); L2→L1 (from French to English)
- Bidirectional placement with its two further cases: L1→L2→L1, or L2→L1→L2 known as “double way”;



- Multidirectional placement with its two further cases: L1→L2, L3, ...Ln known as “one to many”; 0→L1, L2, L3,...Ln known as “Zero to many” starting from tertium comparationis to many languages.

The placement of subcorpora has been discussed in the previous section (more details, see Fonkoua & Bayiha 2023). These placement mechanisms at the language level and the subcorpora level result to the establishment of correlations which contain interesting methodological points for contrastive linguistics. This can be consulted in Bayiha’s thesis (not yet defended).

For this study, the languages in comparison will be placed following the second case of the bidirectional placement, that is, ‘one way’ having relativization as a tertium comparationis; and English and French as ‘another languages’. This placement will entail the placement of subcorpora following the first degree of the bidirectional contrastive sense, reason being that Nádvořníková (2017) advises to take always into consideration the two translation senses in a contrastive analysis. So, in this study, English subcorpus and French subcorpus will be reciprocally compared in order to identify as many realities as possible on relativizing mechanisms.

### 2.3. Data collection and treatment

Our corpus is made up of occurrences of relativization from the corpus sources (*Disobedience – La désobéissance; The Lessons– Mauvais genre; and The Power – Le pouvoir*). These occurrences are extracted manually and electronically. The manual extraction of data is justified by the fact that there are some instances of relativization with an overt relative marker and the reason for which data are retrieved electronically is the use of static relative markers by some instances of relativization. Once extracted, instances of relativization of each language will be stored in Excel files in preparation for the counting and for the setting of tables or of representative diagrams.

<sup>15</sup> According to Fonkoua & Bayiha (2023), it contains three degrees: **the first** deals with a comparative reciprocity between the source text and the target text; **the second degree** highlights two different translations into the same language of a same source text; and **the third degree** indicates two translations into different languages from the same source text.

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After the stage of extraction, the bilingual occurrences will be aligned at the sentence level with the help of an online software called *WebAlignToolkit*<sup>16</sup> developed by Kraif. The alignment of various occurrences will help us to get translational correspondences between excerpts from various corpus sources serving as examples during the analysis phase. From this level, the priority will be only on representative realizations of relativization. It is also during the analysis phase that the selected placement at the level of languages and of subcorpus will be applied. It means that the adopted bidirectional sense of the subcorpus will make English subcorpus to enjoy the status of the starting point for comparison and that of French, the status of arrival point for comparison while undertaking the syntactic contrastive analysis. With semantic contrastive analysis, the French subcorpus will rather occupy the starting point for comparison and the English subcorpus, the arrival point for comparison.

### 3. Data Presentation and Findings

For the sake of efficiency, it is preferable to tackle one pair of corpus sources at a time for data presentation. This presentation will consist in two phases, that is, the counting of occurrences of each subtype of relative for each language in comparison according to the selected typologies - that of Sag (1997) for English and the typology based on the nature of the relative markers for French - and the usage frequency of each subtype of relative within the source from which they are extracted.

#### 3.1. *Disobedience* – ‘*La désobéissance*’

The presence of relativization in *Disobedience* and its French version *La désobéissance* has been noticed through some occurrences as the following tables show:

**Tables 4. Occurrences of Relative subtypes in *Disobedience* – *La désobéissance***

English		French	
<b>Types of relative</b>	<b>Occurrences</b>	<b>Type de marqueur relatif</b>	<b>Occurrences</b>
bare relative	49	pronom relatif "auquel"	5
that-relative	57	pronom relatif "auxquels"	3
Wh-relative	264	pronom relatif "dont"	25
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>370</b>	pronom relatif "duquel"	1
		pronom relatif "laquelle"	5
		pronom relatif "lequel"	13
		pronom relatif "lesquelles"	2
		pronom relatif "lesquels"	2
		pronom relatif "où"	60
		pronom relatif "quand"	1
		pronom relatif "que"	110
		pronom relatif "qui"	278
		sans relativiseur	1
		<b>Total général</b>	<b>506</b>

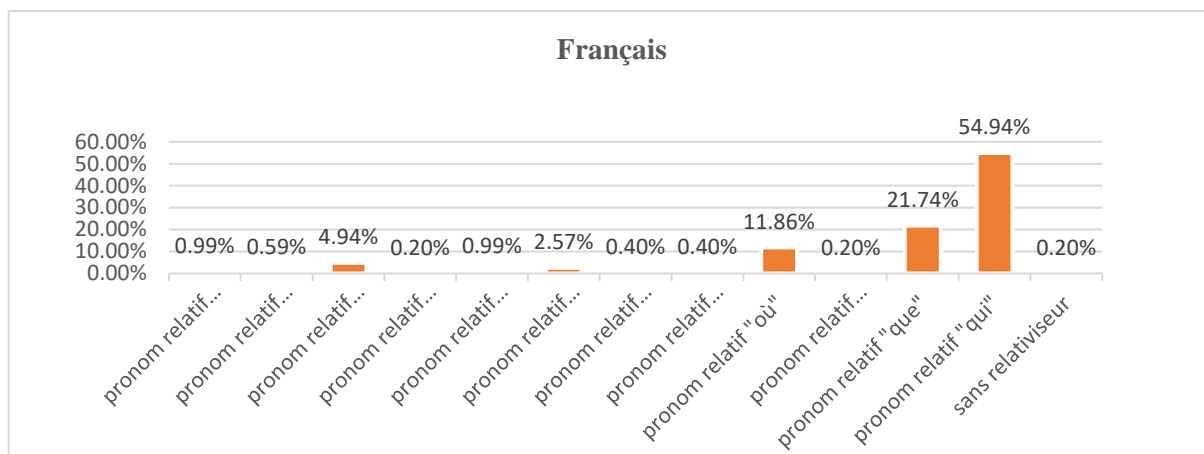
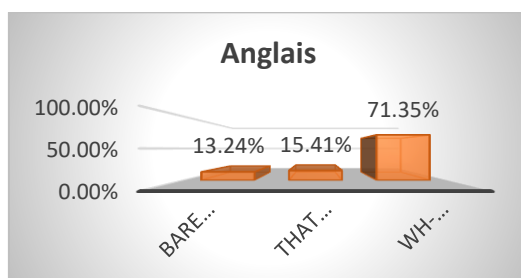
Despite the synthetic nature of the English typology and the analytic tendency of the French typology, I find out that there are 370 occurrences of relativization in the versions and 506 in the French version. More particularly, it can be noticed that *Wh-relative* is mostly used in the English source with 264 occurrences while *Bare-relative* is less used with 49 occurrences. In the French source, *pronom relative "qui"* has the highest total of instances with 278 occurrences, and the subtypes *sans relativiseur*, *pronom relatif "quand"*, and *pronom relative "duquel"* having the lowest total of instances with just one occurrence each. The numbers of the other relative subtypes being found in-between these maximum and minimum sills of the different versions as the above tables show.

The numbers of occurrences for each relative subtype is used to determine their usage frequency within the respective sources as the following graphics illustrate:

**Figures 2. Usage Frequencies of Relative Subtypes in *Disobedience* - *La Désobéissance***

<sup>16</sup> <http://phraseotext.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/webAlignToolkit/>

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With regard to these graphics, the highest usage frequency goes for *Wh-relative* in the English version (71.35 %) while it goes for *pronom relative "qui"* in the French version (54.94%). However, the lowest usage frequency usage for goes *Bare-relative* in the English version (13.24 %) and for *pronom "duquel"*, *pronom relative "quand"*, and for *sans relativiseur* (0.20 %). In short, the usage frequency of each subtypes of relativization varies according to their number of occurrences.

A contrastive analysis of the number of relativization occurrences and their usage frequency between the English and French sources suggests the presence of a greater quantity of occurrences in the French version (506 vs. 307 occurrences) surely due to the more extended numbers of pages in the French version (331p vs. 288p). It further suggests a greater usage frequency of a relative subtype in the English version (71.35 % vs. 54.94%) because of the synthetic nature of the chosen typology and a lower usage frequency of relative subtypes in the French version (0.20 % vs. 13.24 %) because of the analytic tendency of the chosen typology for the version French.

3.2. The Lessons– ‘Mauvais genre’

This pair of sources also contains occurrences of relativization. The following tables provide indications on the numerical state of occurrences in each source:

Tables 5. Occurrences of Relative Subtypes in *The Lessons– Mauvais genre*

English	
Types of relative	Occurrences
bare relative	54
that-relative	83
wh-relative	168
<b>Total général</b>	<b>305</b>

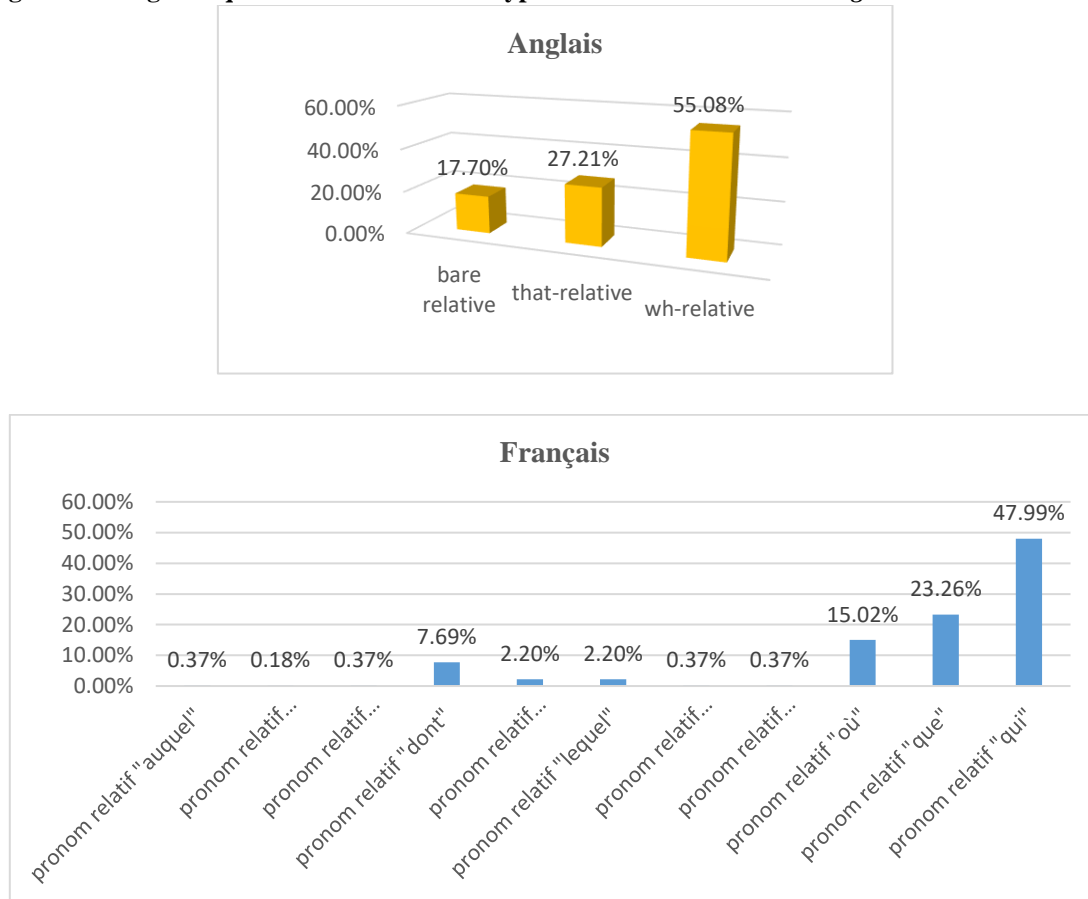
French	
Marqueurs relatifs	Occurrences
pronom relatif "auquel"	2
pronom relatif "auxquelles"	1
pronom relatif "auxquels"	2
pronom relatif "dont"	42
pronom relatif "laquelle"	12
pronom relatif "lequel"	12
pronom relatif "lesquelles"	2
pronom relatif "lesquels"	2
pronom relatif "où"	82
pronom relatif "que"	127
pronom relatif "qui"	262
<b>Total général</b>	<b>546</b>

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According to the above tables, there are 305 occurrences in total in the English version: the subtype *Wh-relative* occupies the first position with 168 occurrences and the *Bare-relative* occupies the last position with 54 occurrences. The French version has a total of 546 occurrences: the subtype *pronom relative ‘qui’* occupies the first position with 262 occurrences and the subtype *pronom relative ‘auxquelles’* occupies the last position with just 1 occurrence.

The quantity of other subtypes are found in-between these minimum and maximum sills. Moreover, the quantity of occurrences of each subtypes of relative be it in English or in French versions are representative of the different usage frequency as it is schematically shown in the following diagrams:

**Figures 3. Usage Frequencies of Relative Subtypes in *The Lessons - Mauvais genre***



It can be noticed that *Wh-relative* occupies the first position with 55.08 % of usage and *Bare relative*, the last position with 17.70 % of usage in the English version while the subtype *pronom relatif ‘qui’* gets the highest percentage of usage with 47.99 % and the subtype *pronom relatif ‘auxquelles’* gets the lowest usage percentage with 0.18 % in the French version; the rest of subtypes getting usage percentages which are found in-between the highest and the lowest percentage sills in each version.

A contrastive analysis of versions in terms of the quantity of occurrences and their usage frequency suggests that the French version gets more relative occurrences than the English one (546 vs. 305) primarily due to the discrepancy of the number of pages (381p vs. 279p) while the English version gets a subtype with a highest percentage of usage and the French version, a subtype with the lowest usage percentage (55.08 % vs. 0.18 %). This is primarily due to the nature of relativization typologies selected for classification. The typology for the English classification seems general whereas the one used for the French classification of relative seems to be extended specific.

**3.3. The Power – Le pouvoir**

The above pair of sources also possess occurrences of relativization of various types. The tables below expose in details the number of occurrences per types in each language:

**Tableaux 6. Occurrences of Relative Subtypes in *The Power et Le pouvoir***

Anglais		Français	
Types of relatives	Occurrences	Types of relatives	Occurrences



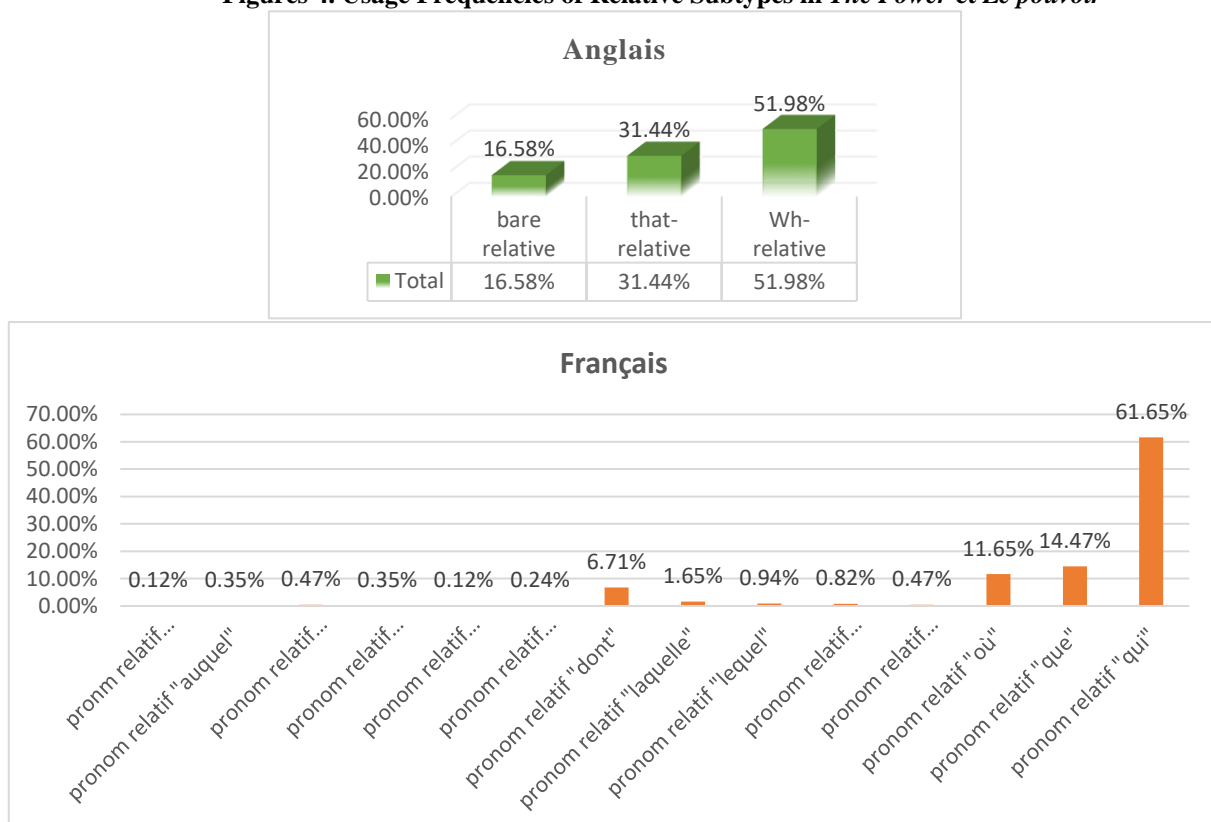
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Bare relative	67
that-relative	127
Wh-relative	210
<b>Total général</b>	<b>404</b>

Marqueurs relatifs	Occurrences
pronom relatif "lesquelles"	1
pronom relatif "auquel"	3
pronom relatif "auxquelles"	4
pronom relatif "auxquels"	3
pronom relatif "desquelles"	1
pronom relatif "desquels"	2
pronom relatif "dont"	57
pronom relatif "laquelle"	14
pronom relatif "lequel"	8
pronom relatif "lesquelles"	7
pronom relatif "lesquels"	4
pronom relatif "où"	99
pronom relatif "que"	123
pronom relatif "qui"	524
<b>Total général</b>	<b>850</b>

Among the types of relatives in the English version, *Wh-relative* possesses the highest number of occurrences (210) whereas *Bare relative* possesses the smallest quantity of occurrences (67) in that version. The situation is different in its French counterpart with *pronom relative “qui”* occupying the first position with 524 occurrences of relativization and with three other types having one occurrence each namely:

Figures 4. Usage Frequencies of Relative Subtypes in *The Power et Le pouvoir*



As it can be observed on the first hand, *Wh-relative* enjoys the highest usage frequency (51.98 %); *Bare relative* has the lowest usage frequency (16.58 %) in the English version; and the remaining subtypes being found in-between the above-mentioned usage frequencies. On the other hand, *pronom relatif ‘qui’* gets a usage frequency of 61.65 %; *pronom relatif ‘lesquelles’* and *‘desquelles’* have 0.12 % as a usage frequency each in the French version of the corpus; and the other subtypes being found in-between the above-mentioned usage frequencies.

From a contrastive perspective, there are more occurrences in the French version than in the English one (850 vs. 404) because of the French version’s greater number of pages (504p vs. 338p). As far as the usage percentage is concerned, the French version has a subtype with the highest usage percentage (*pronom relative “qui”* 61.65 %) and a subtype with the lowest usage

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percentage (*pronom relatif* "lesquelles"/ "desquelles" 0.12 %). This situation shows the extent to which relativization is implemented in the French version in various facets.

To sum up, relativization is particularly implemented in each version of the different languages. The manner in which relativization is implemented in various sources reveals variation in terms of the number of occurrences and their usage frequency. The observation of such contrasts between English and French versions therefore gives room to the syntactic and semantic contrastive analysis of relativization.

### 4. Contrastive syntax of Relativization

Each language involved in the comparative process has its own ways of ordering relative markers during the relativization process. The different ways of ordering items can be subject to contrasts: such a task is referred to as contrastive syntax of relativization. This task will be realized at three distinctive levels namely: syntactic properties, syntactic processes, and syntactic functions of relative markers.

#### 4.1. Syntactic properties

Syntactic properties refer to the inner nature suggested by the syntactic ordering proper to a given clause operation marker. By observing relativization from the corpus, both convergent and divergent properties are identified. Convergent syntactic properties are presented by relative markers in the two linguistic systems. Such properties are: the non-segmentation of operators and immobility.

- **The non-segmentation of operators** denotes the unseparatedness of the relative marker. The following excerpts from the corpus illustrate this syntactic property:

1. (a) Marriage is only permitted between those **who** have little in common. (*Disobedience*, p.143)
- (b) Cette ligne était le lien **qui** unit un état à un autre. (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.228)

2. (a) The mythical group of friends **who** are closer than family, **who** replace family. (*The Lessons*, p.83)

(b) Il a fini par voler une voiture avec **laquelle** il a eu un accident dont il n'est sorti indemne [...] (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.198)

3. (a) The struggle **that** moved so slowly until this great change happened. (*The Power*, p.133)

(b) Tunde ne comprit pas les mots **que** criait cette femme mais pour son cerveau épuisé et terrorisé [...] (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p.406)

As it can be seen, the relative markers found in the above English and French excerpts can no longer be segmented due to their compact nature.

- **Immobility** as a syntactic property for relativization refers to the static position taken by a relative marker. In a structure, the distinction is made between the initial, middle, and the final positions. Considering the following:

4. (a) the knowledge **that** gained had been hewn each day from solid [...] (*Disobedience*, p.146)

(b) Trois femmes **qui** portaient naturellement un autre nom. (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.182)

5. (a) Yours is the accusing finger **which** wields the dagger thrusting [...] (*The Lessons*, p.121)

(b) ...vers le bas-côté de la route **où** l'attendaient Simon et sa famille. (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.333)

6. (a) ...burned into the comforter **where** her hands clutched it. (*The Power*, p.25)

(b) Une chose sans **laquelle** je ne voudrais pas partir." (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p.375)

We realize that the canonical position of English and French relative markers is the middle position within the sentence structure.

Divergent syntactic properties denote divergent behaviours of a clause operation subtype within two linguistic systems. They can further denote exceptional features in the clause operation behaviour with regard to the others of the same group. So, the segmentation of compound relative markers is one the divergent syntactic properties as shown below:

7. (a) in the interests **of which** I have to admit that [...] (*Disobedience*, p.14)

(b) [...] quelqu'un **à qui** transmettre ces enseignements. (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.113)

8. (a) [...] that without Jess I would return to the state **in which** she had found me [...] (*The Lessons*, p.191)

(b) Un bouclier renfermant un petit cercle **sous lequel** étaient gravés les mots [...]. (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.51)

9. (a) [...] from the country **of which** she was the leader chosen by a democratic process. (*The Power*, p.217)

(b) s'ensuivent quatre ou cinq jours **au cours desquels** Margot rentre à peine chez elle. (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p.40)

This issue is considered as a divergent syntactic property for relativization because the bulk of relative markers in English or in French are recognized as being unseparated while compound relative markers are exception for this general rule. This divergence

is not seen between linguistic systems involved in comparison, but between a general rule and its exception presented by the comparing languages.

#### 4.2 Syntactic processes

By syntactic processes, we mean structuring mechanisms thanks to which clause operations are implemented. The behaviour of relative markers in the corpus highlights some processes from a syntactic viewpoint such as: unitarity of operators, bipolarization of the structure, and the omission of an operator constituent.

- **The unitarity of operators** is a process that is obtained with the use of a single item as it is shown in the following examples:

10. (a) Ils se devaient de réunir ceux **qui** l'avaient connu, ses pairs et ses brebis [...] (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.110)
- (b) Mrs Stone, a woman **who** took pleasure in allowing her mouth open [...] (*Disobedience*, p.127)
11. (a) I imagined the way **that** he would be turning to my mother [...] (*The Lessons*, p.115)
- (b) [...] une fille nommée Elaine **dont** j'ignorais tout [...] (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.28)
12. (a) [...] little sips **which** couldn't do no one any harm. (*The Power*, p.30)
- (b) Il repense à la façon **dont** elle s'est moquée de lui. (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p.34)

- **The bipolarization of the structure** refers to the subdivision of the structure in two syntactic poles; the operator being the borderland between the two. This process is obtained with the use of relative markers as it is shown below:

13. (a) it felt like I was doing something, **which** I suppose is the point. (*Disobedience*, p.33)
- (b) Hendon regorge de gens **qui** meurent d'envie de vous l'expliquer. (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.46)
14. (a) I thought of rise of her breast, **which** none of those would have shared [...] (*The Lessons*, p.119)
- (b) J'ai suivi l'allée de gravier **qui** mène aux écuries reconverties en salon. (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.12)
15. (a) She is not the only girl **who** beaches on this shore [...] (*The Power*, p.41)
- (b) elle entend le sang **qui** artèle dans ses oreilles (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p.24)

- **The omission of an operator constituent**: it may happen that the relative marker be omitted or fails to appear at its canonical position without altering the correctness of the sentence. Such situations recurrent in English but not in French. The latter makes use of a palliative measure that is the use of participles.

16. (a) I stayed late at work, trying to make up for the things\_ I hadn't got done during the day (*Disobedience*, p.16)
- (b) Le Rav aurait dû être entouré d'hommes\_ possédant une grande science de la Torah, capables d'étudier nuit [...] (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.12)
17. (a) [...] of the aimless hours\_I might be here filled me with sudden horror. (*The Lessons*, p.26)
18. (a) A game\_she played when she was a girl. (*The Power*, p.25)

#### 4.3. Syntactic functions of relative markers

A syntactic function of a relative marker is the role it plays for the ordering or the arrangement of items in a structure. Some of the functions identified when examining our corpus are thematic complementation, rhematic complementation, category antecedence, and creation of a linking mode in the sentence.

- **Thematic complementation** is one of the functions played by relative markers consisting in extending the field of the theme in a sentence. The following excerpts illustrate this syntactic function:

19. (a) Those **who** never do it never grow up. (*Disobedience*, p. 139)
- (b) Un cadeau **qui** avait scellé une réconciliation. (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.53)
20. (a) The money **that** made all things possible [...] (*The Lessons*, p.180)
- (b) Celui **qui** a écrit *Thinking the State*. (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.91)
21. (a) The girl **who** has been listening at the window brings this message [...] (*The Power*, p.82)

- (b) le goût **qui** enfle sur sa langue est celui des oranges amères. (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p.25)

- **Rhematic complementation** is one of the functions, played by relative markers, consisting in extending the field of a rhematic item in a sentence. Evidence of such a syntactic function are found below:

22. (a) One of our sages rebuked a woman **who** had spread gossip. (*Disobedience*, p. 123)
- (b) Il se transformait en un objet sacré **dont** on se défaisait dans l'honneur et le respect, (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.43)
23. (a) The key is the possession of objects **which** are clearly tremendously expensive [...] (*The Lessons*, p.196)
- (b) Nous en avons trouvé un **dont** les planches étaient intactes [...] (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.17)
24. (a) I know kids **who** come from that. (*The Power*, p.109)
- (b) Disons plutôt qu'il attendait quelqu'un **qui** le fasse vraiment vibrer. (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p.31)

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- **Category antecedence** means that relative markers have as antecedents, linguistic items from diverse categories such as: person, thing, animal, place, etc. as it is illustrated by the excerpts below:

25. (a) [...] not-yet-koshered *chikens* **which** had to be salted and drained at home. (*Disobedience*, p. 126)

(b) des *vieux rouleaux* de la Torah **que** l'on enterre quand ils deviennent illisibles (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.43)

(c) [...] Martin, *le directeur financier* **qui** espérait le départ de Scott pour rester le seul et unique mâle. (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.50)

26. (a) We played *card games and Cluedo* - **which** Simon won in the most irritating fashion imaginable [...] (*Lessons*, p.154)

(b) We walked through *Front Quad*, **where** the mariachis were playing a set the programme [...] (*The Lessons*, p.148)

(c) *Oxford*, **qui** adore se distinguer, sépare la remise des diplômes de la fin du cycle universitaire. (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.294)

27. (a) *Sister Maria Ignacia* - **who**, the others note, is a particular friend of that girl Eve (*The Power*, p.81)

(b) It wasn't just those *men* **who** hurt us' (*The Power*, p.94)

(c) *Le rat auquel* on n'a pas administré de traitement succombe rapidement: (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p.196)

- **Creation of a linking mode in the sentence** is a syntactic function played by relative markers that establishes the hierarchy between two independent clauses; one becoming main and the other, a subordinate relative clause:

28. (a) The story, **which** only moments ago had seemed so full of innocent interest, had now become filled with difficulty. (*Disobedience*, p. 130)

(b) Dovid, **qui** avait si souvent exécuté ce nœud spécifique pour de nombreux défunts, se sentait étrangement [...] (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.45)

29. (a) Ricardo, a boy **who** had been one of Mark's favourites [...] (*Lessons*, p.276)

(b) [...] j'ai un projet **qui** pourrait l'intéresser." (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.330)

30. (a) The waiter, **whose** name is Peter, writes some words on a scrap [...] (*The Power*, p.22)

(b) [...] à cet enfant de cet âge, **qui** scrute la moindre feuille, examine la moindre pierre [...] (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p.483)

With reference to the above discussion, it can be noticed that the consideration of relativization in a translation context gives rich insights from a syntactic point of view. As far as our corpus is concerned, some syntactic features of relativization have been identified, discussed, and exemplified. It allowed us to contrast the impact of relative markers and their usefulness from one linguistic system to the other.

### 5. Contrastive semantics of Relativization

The use of relative markers in a given linguistic context influences the overall meaning of a structure. Since languages possess their own rules governing the use of relativization, even though they can show some convergences at a given time, contrasting the translational renderings of relativization from a semantic point of view seems to be a task worth undertaking. This task therefore consists in identifying the semantic functions of relativization within the selected corpus, in examining different translation renderings of relative markers, and in presenting some translation procedures used.

#### 5.1. Semantic functions of relativization

By semantic functions, we mean the roles played by items for the meaningfulness of the structure. As far as relativization is concerned, three semantic functions are identified: relative markers as action specifiers, relative markers as qualifying specifiers, and relative markers as spatial specifiers.

- **Relative markers as action specifiers** are useful in specifying the action performed by an antecedent. They indicate the type of action performed by a specific antecedent. The following serve as illustrations:

30. (a) Levitsky, **who** had arrived with a tin of biscuits [...] (*Disobedience*, p.45)

(b) Le Roi de l'Univers, **qui** m'a faite selon sa volonté. (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.82)

(c) [...] avec les Américaines relax **qui** avaient la télé dans leur chambre. (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.269)

(d) [...] suivait des yeux les oiseaux **qui** croassaient et paraient. (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.270)

31. (a) [...] she had schoolfriends at different universities **who** wrote to each ceaselessly [...] (*Lessons*, p. 113)

(b) [...] une créature pâle **qui** battait sans cesse des paupières, œuvrait au sein du parti travailliste. (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.22)

32. (a) [...] but with a holy feeling **that** they can see on one another's faces. (*The Power*, p.79)

(b) Did you know the guy **who** invented the battery was inspired by looking [...] (*The Power*, p. 19)

(c) Disons plutôt qu'il attendait quelqu'un **qui** le fasse vraiment vibrer. (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p.31)

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By observing these illustrative excerpts, there are antecedents on one side of relative markers and actions on the other. The role of relative markers is to connect them by specifying the action performed by a specific antecedent. Therefore, this semantic function of relativization is commonly shared by English and French.

- **Relative markers as qualifying specifiers** are helpful for specifying antecedent qualities. In other words, they serve as a bridge between antecedents and qualities they possess. Instances of this semantic function of relativization are:

33. (a) that night, I dreamed of nothing and no one, **which** was perfect. (*Disobedience*, p. 16)

(b) [...] pénétrée par l'eau (siège), **qui** est la Torah, **qui** est la vie. (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.39)

34. (a) [...] the friend of Emmanuella's, the girl (agent) **who** seemed always to be wearing a red sweater. (*Lessons*, p. 23)

(b) [...] I have to find a husband (patient) **who** is of the blood pure. (*Lessons*, p. 38)

(c) Je n'ai pas dit à Jess **qui** était cette fille inaccessible, c'était ma vie privée, le centre de mon cœur [...] (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.44)

35. (a) Darrell's the only one **who's** always been nice to her. (*The Power*, p.48)

(b) [...] il a régulé son pouvoir **qui** est désormais stable et continu. (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p.322)

The above corpus fragments suggest a connection between qualities and antecedents achieved thanks to relative markers be it in English and in French. Relative markers therefore participate in defining the quality borne by a specific antecedent.

- **Relative markers as spatial specifiers** are useful in bringing specific information on a place antecedent. The antecedent in this case must generally be a place. Examples are the following:

36. (a) I mean, particularly in New York, **where** everyone's Jewish anyway (*Disobedience*, p. 12)

(b) [...] la librairie WH Smith **où** je passais des heures à lire des magazines interdits [...] (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.76)

37. (a)[...] walked to the bathroom **where** I was out of sight. (*Lessons*, p. 207)

(b) J'ai repensé à la société dans **laquelle** j'avais passé les quatorze dernières années de ma vie: (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.374)

38. (a) They follow her out into the garden, **where** Bernie's wife Barbara has one of them ornamental [...] (*The Power*, p. 48)

(b) [...] tandis qu'il lui désignait les enclos **où** l'on regroupe les porcs avant leur rencontre avec le couteau. (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p.52)

In the above English and French corpus excerpts, we notice that relative markers serve to connect situations to specific places and to circumscribe happenings inside well-defined contexts. From there, one can induce that relative markers have common features in space specification.

In a nutshell, I need to mention that the first two groups of semantic function bear the following characteristics: they are contextual, they are difficult to undergo a stick classification. Relative markers as spatial specifiers show exceptional features: they are relatives indicating a place or compound relatives (*dans laquelle*, *in which*, *etc.*). It means that relatives belonging to the other groups can become spatial specifiers through the compounding process.

### 5.2. Examining Translation renderings of relative markers

To examine translation renderings of relative markers in the corpus, Concepts initiated by Johansson (1998) will be borrowed: convergent correspondence, divergent correspondence, and zero correspondence. These concepts indicate possible results when aspects of different linguistic systems are compared.

**Convergent correspondence** indicates a rendering in which a relative marker is rendered by its natural counterpart. In other words, this context suggests the rendering of a relative marker in the source text by a relative marker of the target language which is commonly known as its correspondent. Such a correspondence is illustrated by the following excerpts:

39. (a) Blessed are you, God, **who** distinguishes between the holy and the workaday. (*Disobedience*, p. 42)

(b) Loué soit Dieu **qui** distingue le sacré de l'ordinaire. (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.61)

40. (a) I thought of the Oxford life **that**, it seemed to me, was always happening somewhere else. (*Lessons*, p. 15)

(b) Je pensais à la vie à Oxford, **qui**, me semblait-il, se passait toujours ailleurs. (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.30)

41. (a) [...], his absolute vulnerability, the feeling **that** she could overpower him if she wanted. (*The Power*, p. 15)

(b) [...], ce sentiment de vulnérabilité absolue qui s'est emparé de lui, la sensation **qu'**elle pouvait le soumettre si elle le voulait. (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p. 35)

This rendering is one of the possibilities for translating relative markers and it is commonly used. According to these illustrations, *qui* is a natural equivalent for *who*, and *that* as it is commonly known. This type of rendering does not therefore require much effort.

**Divergent correspondence** describes a situation whereby a specific type of relative marker in the source text is not rendered by an equivalent type of relative in the target text. It means that a relative marker in the source text is rendered by a relative marker

of the target language which does not have equivalence relationships. The following corpus excerpts illustrate divergent correspondence:

42. (a) [...] 'person\_ you love' to 'person you like to have sex with » [...] (*Disobedience*, p.53)  
(b) [...] « la personne **que** l'on aime » à « personne avec qui on couche » [...] (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.76)
43. (a) He is the thing\_ I have never been able to loose myself from. (*Lessons*, p. 247)  
(b) Il est celui **dont** je n'ai jamais réussi à me détacher. (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.339)
44. (a) A game\_ she played when she was a girl. (*The Power*, p. 25)  
(b) Un jeu **auquel** elle jouait quand elle était petite. (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p. 49)

Considering the above examples, excerpts from the source contain a type of relative which is bare relative and is rendered by different types of relative in French i.e., *que*, *dont*, and *auquel* respectively. These renderings are not semantically problematic, but rather they give room to further analyses. In 42a, the antecedent is logically suffering the action of love. That is why the logical relative marker for this antecedent in the French version (42b) is *que*. The same explanation goes for 43a, b and for 44a, b. To achieve such a translation, translators infer on the suitable relative marker based on the context of the source text.

**Zero correspondence** refers to a situation whereby relative markers in the source text and their rendering in the target text do not correspond formally. Simply put, relative markers are rendered by other linguistic items other than relatives as shown below:

45. (a) The Rav should be surrounded by men of great Torah learning, **who** might study night and day [...] (*Disobedience*, p.3)  
(b) Le Rav aurait dû être entouré d'hommes possédant une grande science de la Torah, capables d'étudier nuit et jour [...] (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.12)
46. (a) In the group tutorial the following morning Dr Boycott called on me again and again for answers **that** he must have known I could not possess. (*Lessons*, p. 19)  
(b) Le lendemain, Durant le cours, le professeur Boycott n'a cessé de m'interroger, sachant pertinemment que je ne pourrais pas répondre. (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.35)
47. (a) [...], but the shape **that** electricity wants to take is of a living thing, a fern, a bare branch. (*The Power*, p. 3)  
(b) [...], mais l'électricité veut prendre la forme d'une chose vivante, d'une fougère, d'une branche nue. (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p. 17)

All the relative markers in the source text are rendered without making use of French relative markers. Incentives for such an option are generally related to translation procedures and demands or to text clarity and flow.

### 5.3. Translation procedures

Translation procedures stand for measures used by translators during the translation process. These are specifically a translator's measures while rendering the overall message of the source text containing relative markers. According to Vinay and Darbelnet (1972), there are 7 of them namely: modulation, transposition, literal translation, calque, borrowing, adaptation, and equivalence. The analysis of these measures can be narrowed down to a specific linguistic aspect. So, some translation procedures will be examined with reference to relative markers.

#### 5.3.1. Literal translation

Literal translation consisting in a word for word translation. Within the corpus, convergent correspondence instances of relative markers illustrate the use of this translation procedure. Such of them can be seen below:

48. (a) Blessed are you, God, **who** distinguishes between the holy and the workaday. (*Disobedience*, p. 42)  
(b) Loué soit Dieu **qui** distingue le sacré de l'ordinaire. (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.61)
49. (a) I thought of the Oxford life **that**, it seemed to me, was always happening somewhere else. (*Lessons*, p. 15)  
(b) Je pensais à la vie à Oxford, **qui**, me semblait-il, se passait toujours ailleurs. (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.30)
50. (a) [...], his absolute vulnerability, the feeling **that** she could overpower him if she wanted. (*The Power*, p. 15)  
(b) [...], ce sentiment de vulnérabilité absolue qui s'est emparé de lui, la sensation **qu'**elle pouvait le soumettre si elle le voulait. (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p. 35)

The above translation renderings show formal correspondence and a one-to-one matching between relative markers in the source excerpts and those of the target ones. Moreover, relative markers in the French excerpts are known as literal renderings of relative markers in the source excerpts; with the French relative operators "qui" and "que" being more analytical than their English counterparts. It means the former allow several counterparts in English: *Qui* can be literally translated into *who, which, that, bare relative*; *Que* can be literally translated into *which, that, bare relative*.

#### 5.3.2. Transposition

Transposition consists in replacing one word class with another without changing the meaning of the message (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1958:88). There are several types of transposition: some authors distinguish types of transposition according to word class combinations whereas other coin a thoroughly different nomenclatures (see Chuquet & Paillard, 1989). By examining the corpus, transposition is used for rendering relative markers as it is shown below:

- 51 (a) The Rav should be surrounded by men of great Torah learning, **who** might study night and day [...] (*Disobedience*, p.3)

(b) Le Rav aurait dû être entouré d'hommes possédant une grande science de la Torah, *capables* d'étudier nuit et jour [...] (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p. 12)

52. (a) He is the thing I have never been able to loose myself from. (*Lessons*, p. 247)

(b) Il est celui **dont** je n'ai jamais réussi à me détacher. (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.339)

53. (a) A game she played when she was a girl. (*The Power*, p. 25)

(b) Un jeu **auquel** elle jouait quand elle était petite. (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p. 49)

According to transposition types developed by Chuquet & Paillard (1989) - known in French as *chassé-croisé*, *étouffement*, *allègement*, *transposition en chaîne*, *transposition localisée* – excerpts in 51a and b highlight the use of *allègement* which is a kind of reduction, in this case, consisting in omitting the relative marker in the target excerpt. As for the other corpus fragments (52a, b; 53a, b), the transposition type used is *étouffement*. In this case, it is a kind of amplification of the bare relative (52a, 53b) into a wholesome relative marker in the target excerpts (52b, 53b).

### 5.3.3. Equivalence

Equivalence has to do with producing the same meaning or message in the target language text as intended by the original author. Below are some instances of this translation procedures applied to relative markers:

54. (a) [...] but *the shape that* electricity wants to take is of a living thing, a fern, a bare branch. (*The Power*, p.3)

(b) [...] mais *l'électricité veut prendre la forme* d'une chose vivante, d'une fougère, d'une branche nue. (*Le pouvoir*, Trad. Christine Barbaste, p.17)

55. (a) The Rav should be surrounded by men of great Torah learning, who might study night and day [...] (*Disobedience*, p.3)

(b) Le Rav aurait dû être entouré d'hommes possédant une grande science de la Torah, capables d'étudier nuit et jour [...] (*La désobéissance*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.12)

56. (a) In the group tutorial the following morning Dr Boycott called on me again and again for answers that he must have known I could not possess. (*Lessons*, p. 19)

(b) Le lendemain, Durant le cours, le professeur Boycott n'a cessé de m'interroger, sachant pertinemment que je ne pourrais pas répondre. (*Mauvais genre*, Trad. Hélène Papot, p.35)

The above pairs of excerpts illustrate equivalence as a translation procedure in the sense that the same meaning is conveyed through the use of different structures. In 54a, relativization comes as a result of the fronting of the object in the structure and it is rendered in 54b by a structure whose components occupy their canonical position. In 55a and 56a, relative structures are rendered by equivalent structure respectively in 55b and 56b. The common features in these illustrative excerpts are their sameness in meaning, their difference in structure, and the use of compensation means while translating. The sameness in meaning accounts for the possibility to express in the target language the meaning conveyed in the source text; the difference in structure reveals that languages possess resources which can be arranged differently but conveying the same meaning; and compensation means are often used to fine-tune the equivalence in meaning between the source text and the target text.

It can be noticed that relativization instances of convergent correspondence are more often built thanks to literal translation; meanwhile the use of transposition as a translation procedure for relativization generally leads to divergent correspondence instances; whereas instances of zero correspondence are usually the product of the use of equivalence for translating relative markers.

### Conclusion

Contrasting clause operations is a project worth undertaking because languages possess rich and subtle ways of implementing such processes. The riches and subtlety in the implementation of clause operations have been discovered in a reduced scale with this contrastive study of relativization based on Naomi Alderman's three novels and their French version. With 370 occurrences selected in *Disobedience*, 506 in *La désobéissance*; 305 occurrences selected in *The Lessons*, 546 in *Mauvais genre*; and 404 occurrences selected in *The Power*, 850 in *Le pouvoir*, it has been noticed on one hand that translational renderings of relative markers possess some common syntactic properties, processes and functions. On the other hand, they equally reveal some common semantic functions backed up by various types of correspondence and some translation procedures.

Translation corpus-based studies, made up of literary texts, are of a paramount importance in contrastive linguistics because they nourish the discipline from a methodological standpoint and they help in uncovering languages' behaviour towards one another. Moreover, we think that Meaning Text Theory (MTT) as a model from transductive grammars best fits such contexts because the latter define a correspondence between 2 families of structures.

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