

Michele Sala (ed.)

**GENDER, LANGUAGE AND
TRANSLATION.
REPRESENTATIONS AND
TRANSCODIFICATIONS**

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Michele Sala (ed.)

Gender, Language and Translation:
Representations and Transcodifications

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MICHELA GIORDANO
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Let's make gender equality a reality: Discourse, Metadiscourse and Translation in EU Informative Brochures

1. Introduction

Two assumptions provide the point of departure for this study. One is that “EU official documents consistently tend to avoid being called ‘translations’ and the designation ‘language versions’ is preferred instead” (Koskinen 2000: 54). The second is that “translation in the EU is not translation in the strict sense of the word, but only ‘interlingual text reproduction’” (Kjaer 2007: 19) (cfr. Gibová 2009). With this in mind, a series of gender-related informative brochures produced by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) have been investigated in order to understand how certain features of metadiscourse were rendered in both the English and Italian versions. Our quantitative and qualitative analysis will look at the use of peculiar language constructions in the two languages in relation, among other aspects, to gender equality/inequality, women and men, stereotypes, male domination, female subordination, and the shaping of identity.

Features of metadiscourse (Hyland 2005) are scrutinized in the two languages in order to ascertain whether and to what extent they function as rhetorical markers and convey a persuasive rather than a

1 Although this paper has been jointly conceived, organised and developed, Michela Giordano is responsible for sections 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 4.1, 4.3. Maria Antonietta Marongiu is responsible for sections 2.1, 2.2, 3, 4.2. Introduction and Conclusions are a shared effort.

merely informative character to the texts being examined. It appears also that the underlying aim of the brochures is to disseminate and circulate gender-related good practices and procedures in controversial cultural contexts and environments, especially those associated with divisive matters. The issue of translation is paramount here, inasmuch as it poses the question of whether the different versions, with clearly somewhat diverse uses of discourse and metadiscourse features, are “translated texts”, “language versions” or “cultural adaptations” of informative texts, thus differentiating and distinguishing them from the two other types of EU texts, namely legislative and administrative (Felici 2010).

After giving an overview of the theoretical framework which forms the basis for this study, we will introduce our corpus and the methodology used to analyse it. We will investigate English and Italian gender-related informative brochures as a descriptive genre and informative text types. In order to answer our main research question, metadiscourse strategies have been analysed to consider how they impact the translation process itself.

2. Theoretical framework

2.1. Metadiscourse

The notion of metadiscourse first appeared in studies on speech communication during the 1980s (Crismore 1989; Vande Kopple 1985). Initially defined as “discourse about discourse”, it was later more precisely identified in specific discourse features writers use to guide the reader’s interpretation of the topical material provided. Vande Kopple’s (1985) initial classification of metadiscourse as commentaries used to clarify textual meaning on the one hand, and to provide interpersonal meaning on the other, was later to be elaborated by Hyland (2005).

In his seminal work, Hyland described metadiscourse as “an important means of facilitating communication, supporting a position,

increasing readability and building a relationship with an audience.” (2005: 5). He later described it as “the cover term for self-reflective expressions used to negotiate interactional meanings in a text, assisting the writer (or speaker) to express a viewpoint and engage with readers as members of a particular community.” (2005: 37). Accordingly, he provided a taxonomy of reference for the analysis of metadiscourse, defined as *an interpersonal model of metadiscourse* (Hyland 2005: 49), where he distinguished between the *interactive* and the *interpersonal* dimensions of discourse. The former dimension concerns the writer’s awareness of a participating audience and their “ways of organizing discourse, [...] and reveals the extent to which the text is constructed with the readers’ needs in mind”. The latter dimension concerns the writer’s intrusion and commentaries on the message, their textual ‘voice’, their rhetorical strategies to persuade, express judgement or attitude as well as orient interpretation.

2.2. Metadiscourse and translation

As communication is a social event, metadiscourse is context- and culture-dependent. Its use has to do with the conventions developed through participation in common situations, where interests and meanings are shared. Besides, metadiscourse choices may vary depending on the language, or may be genre-governed and subject to individual interpretation. This is why the use of metadiscourse must be taken into account in the translation of specialised texts.

In her analysis of metadiscursive elements in the translation of scientific texts, Suau Jiménez (2010) explains that *tenor* is one aspect of register, a token of Halliday’s (1978) *interpersonal function*, which together with genre, can be applied in the translation of specialized texts. The importance of the implications of genre and register analysis for translation lies in the fact that metadiscourse assists in the accomplishment of some relevant prescriptive functions in specialized fields. If texts are translated without considering metadiscourse of both the source and the target language and genre, the communicative goal and pragmatic purposes are likely to be violated, and the result would be a deficient and an unsatisfactory translation.

Register analysis essentially allows translators to identify *field*, *tenor* and *mode*. Tenor, in particular, tells us who the text sender and receiver are, and so translators try to adapt register to the addressee, making language more or less formal as the case may be. The interpersonal function, or tenor, accounts for the ways in which the writer addresses the reader, and, like the metadiscursive interactional resources, involves the reader in the text.

Herriman (2014) compares metadiscourse in English and Swedish non-fiction texts and their relative translations. She argues that translating a text involves taking into account the fact that the usage of metadiscourse in the target language may be influenced by different cultural preferences. Interactive features raise the level of explicitness in the text and provide new information which the translator believes the target language readers may need in order to interpret the text. Additionally, the interpersonal features help enhance emphasis, thereby increasing the readers' commitment to and involvement in the text. Furthermore, features such as self-mentions and attitude markers increase the visibility of the author, allowing translators to adapt the author-reader relationship of the original text to their target language readers. On this basis, changes made in metadiscourse features occur and appear to be an inherent part of the translation process.

2.3 Translation in the EU

There are a series of basic principles to take into account when studying or dealing with EU translations.

As early as 2000, Koskinen had carried out a study of translation in the EU Commission, stressing the fact that multilingualism is one of the key characteristics of the European Union and that all the official languages of the Member States have equal status. Accordingly, the author explains that the documents are not merely translated but drafted in all languages simultaneously, and that none of the 'versions' is a subordinate derivative of any other (2000: 54). Some years later, Kjær (2007) confirmed that the primary concern when translating legislation in the EU is the reproduction of words and phrases that can ensure coherence and consistency within and across the 23 equally authentic

language versions. Therefore, translation in the EU is not translation in the strict sense of the word but it is essentially “interlingual text reproduction” (2007: 87).

The concept of *institutional multilingualism* (Wagner *et al.* 2012: 1) means that all 23 languages of the EU have equal status. The EU has official languages, some of which are identified as *working languages* or *procedural languages* (English, French and German), or *core languages* as Gibová has termed them (2009: 193). However, the institutions produce legislation that is directly applicable to all citizens in all of the Member States. Therefore, this has to be available and accessible in a language all citizens can understand. Specifically, Council Regulation n.1, determining the languages to be used by the EU, does not mention or indeed refer specifically to translations (Wagner *et al.* 2012: 7): it refers instead to 23 language versions and about authenticity where the word *authentic* stands for *legally valid* (Wagner *et al.*, 2012: 5). It is useful to remember that despite the existence of more than one procedural language, “given the increasing popularity of English, translators tend to choose the English versions as original source texts” (Felici 2010: 103).

2.4. Gender and Translation

Castro (2013) argues that many of the scholarly works produced in the last three decades highlight the role that language and translation play in the construction of the social world and investigate how gender roles are discursively constructed through language and translation. The author explains that over the past few years “the dyad gender and translation has been gaining critical consistency and experiencing a remarkable growth” (2013: 7). She shows how a more frequent use of “inclusive language” is being progressively adopted in translated texts.

Santaemilia (2013) presents a discussion about the translation of gender-related terminology in the EU on the assumption that, as we have seen, all the texts published in the EU must be considered originals and not translations. Focusing on the word *gender* in English and *género* in Spanish, the author specifies that “gender-equality institutional texts are highly sensitive, and their translation is not simply

a linguistic matter, but rather a socio-cultural and ideological issue” (2013: 75). He analysed five annual official reports (from 2005 to 2009) on equality between women and men, published by the EU in their English and Spanish versions, considering collocations, such as *gender equality*, *gender stereotypes*, *gender dimension*, and *gender perspective* and other clusters of words where the ones referring to women come before the ones referring to men, concluding that translating gender-equality documents is not only a linguistic or translational question, but also a socio-political and ideological one (2013: 92).

2.5. *Gender in institutional discourse*

In 2018, the European Parliament issued an updated edition of the gender-neutral language guidelines, having been one of the first international organisations to adopt multilingual guidelines on the topic ten years earlier, in 2008. The guidelines start with the definition of gender-neutral language as “a generic term covering the use of non-sexist language, inclusive language or gender-fair language”. The drafters of these guidelines explain that language reflects and influences attitudes, behaviour and perceptions. Therefore, many international and European institutions have adopted guidelines for the non-sexist use of language. The main aim of the European Parliament guidelines is “to encourage the administrative services to give due consideration to the issue of gender sensitivity in language whenever writing, translating or interpreting”. The guidelines consider such issues as the multilingual context, the natural gender languages (such as Danish, English and Swedish), the grammatical gender languages (such as German, Romance languages and Slavic languages) and the type of texts being considered, together with their register. The subject matters in the guidelines include the generic use of the masculine gender, the names of professions, and functions and use of titles which indicate the marital status of women. The specific guidelines for English consider the generic use of *man*, the generic use of *he* and *his*, the generic use of *they*, titles and gender-neutral job titles.

Sandrelli (2019) focuses on the questions of grammatical gender, gender-specific professions and role nouns, the gendered terms of

address, words with the *-man* suffix, along with the use of personal pronouns. She highlights how several corpus studies have found the existence of a male bias in language towards the “masculine rule”, as noted by Williams (2008). Sandrelli’s study aims to investigate the gender perspective in relation to the English used in European Commission directives and how these directives are transposed into domestic law in the UK. The author concludes that gender-neutrality guidelines have had a tangible impact both in the EU and in the UK, but the ways currently used to avoid a gender-bias “still leave ample margin for improvement” (Sandrelli 2019: 138).

3. Data and methodology

Studies on metadiscourse have mostly focused on the analysis of written texts, and especially of specialized language, such as academic discourse. Nevertheless, very little attention has been given to the use of metadiscourse in translation studies, and particularly in policy document translations, but rather to the use of pronouns, titles and nouns for professions along with some specific collocations such as *men and women vs. women and men*, *gender stereotypes* and so on. Unlike in previous research, this study focuses on the metadiscursive aspects of gender-related EU documents in English and how they are rendered in their Italian translations.

The corpus under scrutiny here comes from the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (<https://eige.europa.eu/>). The EIGE’s publications considered are gender-related informative brochures. Felici (2010) argues that in terms of language use, the Commission is in charge of the majority of the translation work, which deals with a vast array of documents. They range from legislative proposals, reports, Green and White Papers to conference proceedings, incoming documents, internal notes, public information, databases and websites. Text typology is also extremely varied. It ranges from legal texts characterised by stereotypical formulations and the marked presence of institutional jargon, to administrative instruments where style is less

strict, and lexicon has more national and local connotations. In addition, there are thousands of informative texts and technical reports written in all EU languages in a conversational style “full of calques and technical terminology” (Felici 2010: 101).

Starting from Felici’s assumption that these informative brochures are written in a conversational style designed to engage the reader, we expected to find many of the metadiscourse strategies considered by Hyland and meant to involve the readers by providing coherent, intelligible and persuasive content (Hyland 2005: 39). In fact, as Suau Jiménez notes (2010: 8), “(t)ranslation is a process that cannot only depend on the finding of equivalences in communicative functions and terminology; it is also necessary to take into account the interpersonal function, i.e. metadiscourse or the way in which the author addresses the reader. This is what varies from one language to another, from one genre to another, and, possibly, from one area of specialisation to another.”

Our corpus consists of two sub-corpora: the main corpus comprises 15 gender-related informative brochures published in English by EIGE and ranging in time from 2016 to 2020. The second sub-corpus contains the corresponding documents in Italian. The 30 documents under scrutiny belong to different areas. The first one (Table 1) concerns gender-based violence including documents on violence in Italy, (VIO + EN/IT in the table), cyber violence (CYBER) and female genital mutilation (MUT).

EIGE CORPUS 2016-2020: Gender-based violence		
2016 24 Nov	Combating violence against women: Italy	VIOEN
	Combattere la violenza contro le donne: Italia	VIOIT
2017 23 Jun	Cyber violence against women and girls	CYBEREN
	Violenza virtuale contro le donne e le ragazze	CYBERIT
2018 9 Nov	Female genital mutilation: How many girls are at risk in Italy	MUTEN
	Mutilazioni genitali femminili: Quante ragazze sono a rischio in Italia?	MUTIT

Table 1. EIGE CORPUS 2016-2020: Gender-based violence

The second area (Table 2) includes gender equality indexes (IND) and a document about gender equality and disability (DIS).

EIGE CORPUS 2016-2020: Gender equality index		
2016 27 Jul	Gender Equality Index 2015- Italy	IND2015EN
	Indice sull'uguaglianza di genere 2015: Italia	IND2015IT
2018 26 Sept	Gender Equality Index 2017: Italy	IND2017EN
	Indice sull'uguaglianza di genere 2017: Italia	IND2017IT
2018 3 Oct	Gender equality needs to reach everyone: Gender equality and disability	DISEN
	L'uguaglianza di genere deve estendersi a tutti: Uguaglianza di genere e disabilità	DISIT
2019 7 Oct	Gender equality Index 2019: Italy	IND2019EN
	Indice sull'uguaglianza di genere 2019: Italia	IND2019IT
2020 28 Oct	Gender equality Index 2020: Italy	IND2020EN
	Indice sull'uguaglianza di genere 2020: Italia	IND2020IT

Table 2. EIGE CORPUS 2016-2020: Gender equality index

The area called gender mainstreaming (Table 3) deals with STEM education, financial decision-making and budgeting in EU funds.

EIGE CORPUS 2016-2020: Gender mainstreaming		
2017 10 Aug	Economic benefits of gender equality in the UE: How gender equality in STEM education leads to economic growth	STEMEN
	Vantaggi economici dell'uguaglianza di genere nell'UE: In che modo l'uguaglianza di genere nell'istruzione delle discipline STEM favorisce la crescita economica	STEMIT
2017 15 Sept	Gender equality in financial decision-making	FINEN
	L'uguaglianza di genere nel processo decisionale finanziario	FINIT
2020 13 May	Toolkit for gender budgeting in the EU funds	KITEN
	Kit di strumenti per il bilancio di genere nei fondi UE	KITIT

Table 3. EIGE CORPUS 2016-2020: Gender mainstreaming

The last area under investigation is the Beijing platform for action (Table 4), which includes documents about poverty (POV), digitalisation (DIG), youth (YOUTH) and inequalities in care and pay (PAY).

EIGE CORPUS 2016-2020: Beijing Platform for Action		
2017 21 Apr	Poverty and gender over the life cycle. Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action	POVEN
	Povert� e genere durante l'intero arco di vita. Esame dell'attuazione della piattaforma di azione di Pechino	POVIT
2018 11 Oct	Gender equality and digitalisation in the European Union	DIGEN
	Uguaglianza di genere e digitalizzazione nell'Unione Europea	DIGIT
2018 11 Oct	Gender equality and youth: the opportunities and risks of digitalisation	YOUTHEN
	Uguaglianza di genere e giovani: opportunit� e rischi della digitalizzazione	YOUTHIT
2020 19 Nov	Gender inequalities in care and pay in the EU	PAYEN
	Disparit� di genere nell'assistenza e nella retribuzione nell'Unione Europea	PAYIT

Table 4. EIGE CORPUS 2016-2020: Beijing Platform for Action

Table 5 shows the number of words in each of the documents in both the English and Italian sub-corpora. From an initial analysis, it can be noticed that the Italian versions are all longer than the English documents, so the Italian corpus is slightly larger than the English one.

EIGE 2016-2020 CORPUS: # of words			
CYBEREN	3989	CYBERIT	4904
DIGEN	1999	DIGIT	2438
DISEN	1670	DISIT	2117
FINEN	1194	FINIT	1393
IND2015EN	2369	IND2015IT	2842
IND2017EN	2676	IND2017IT	3247
IND2019EN	3545	IND2019IT	4572
IND2020EN	1595	IND2020IT	1951
KITEN	1338	KITIT	1742
MUTEN	2283	MUTIT	2515
PAYEN	3049	PAYIT	3430
POVEN	2029	POVIT	2525
STEMEN	1525	STEMIT	1958
VIOEN	1527	VIOIT	1836
YOUTHEN	1692	YOUTHIT	2024
<i>EN SUBCORPUS</i> <i>total</i>	<i>32480</i>	<i>IT SUBCORPUS</i> <i>total</i>	<i>39494</i>

Table 5. Number of words in the EIGE 2016-2020 corpus

Hyland's interpersonal model of metadiscourse (2005: 49) with its various categories and their functions is used to analyse the documents in the corpora. Interactive features include transitions, frame markers, endophoric markers, evidentials and code glosses. Interactional features include hedges, boosters, attitude markers, self-mentions and engagement markers.

First of all, a quantitative analysis was carried out using Sketch Engine. Through this concordance software, the English corpus was scanned for the items in Hyland's 2005 list of metadiscourse features (outlined in detail in the next section, notably in 4.2). The concordance lines were then manually checked to look at every occurrence of the items under investigation in order to ensure that they were actually functioning as metadiscourse. The Italian versions of the brochures were analysed to identify any relevant instances of metadiscourse markers in their translations.

4. Discussion

4.1. Propositional content

It is assumed here that metadiscourse is “the linguistic material which does not add propositional information but which signals the presence of an author” (Vande Kopple 1985). Moreover, metadiscourse can be construed as “the author’s intrusion into the discourse, either explicitly or not explicitly, to direct rather than inform, showing readers how to understand what is said and meant in the primary discourse and how to ‘take’ the author” (Crismore 1983: 2).

However, metadiscourse features are the particular aspects of the text which make its organization explicit, provide information about the writer’s attitude towards the text content, and engage the reader in the interaction. Therefore, specialized terminology and the translation thereof also belong to the field of propositional meaning. As for the propositional content, the 50 most frequently used nouns were identified in the English documents (Figure 1).

Lemma	Frequency	Lemma	Frequency	Lemma	Frequency
1 woman	689	18 girl	84	35 w	58
2 gender	487	19 time	84	36 states	57
3 man	379	20 education	83	37 job	57
4 equality	308	21 datum	80	38 victim	56
5 eu	284	22 index	79	39 policy	56
6 violence	199	23 health	78	40 form	51
7 european	159	24 level	76	41 rate	51
8 italy	155	25 score	76	42 service	51
9 work	126	26 employment	75	43 labour	50
10 domain	114	27 inequality	73	44 survey	50
11 care	112	28 risk	72	45 point	49
12 gap	103	29 people	68	46 report	48
13 eige	98	30 hyperlink	67	47 activity	46
14 cyber	93	31 life	64	48 mutilation	45
15 disability	92	32 age	60	49 country	44
16 member	91	33 poverty	59	50 year	44
17 institute	86	34 m	58		

Figure 1. The first 50 nouns in the English sub-corpus

From this list the following ones were extracted because they refer to the themes and topics representing the propositional content in the texts under scrutiny, thus indicating their “aboutness” or the subject matter: *woman, gender, man, equality, violence, cyber, disability, education, health, employment, inequality, risk, poverty, victim* and *mutilation*.

A similar selection has been carried out for the Italian corpus, where themes and propositional content are related to nouns such as *donna, genere, uomini, lavoro, violenza, uguaglianza, assistenza, ragazza, parità, disabilità, istruzione, divario, rischio, salute, povertà, occupazione, vittima*, and *partecipazione* (Figure 2).

Lemma	Frequency	Lemma	Frequency	Lemma	Frequency
1 donna	660	18 disabilità	94	35 europa	60
2 genera	562	19 settore	93	36 povertà	60
3 uomini	350	20 dominio	92	37 occupazione	58
4 ue	254	21 istruzione	92	38 vittima	57
5 lavoro	226	22 vita	89	39 forma	57
6 violenza	221	23 persona	85	40 indagine	55
7 uguaglianza	218	24 online	84	41 servizio	55
8 italia	141	25 divario	84	42 and	53
9 assistenza	135	26 età	83	43 attività	52
10 livello	126	27 membro	80	44 numero	52
11 ragazza	120	28 rischio	79	45 strumento	51
12 tempo	109	29 indice	77	46 tasso	49
13 dato	100	30 unione	74	47 consiglio	48
14 eige	99	31 punteggio	71	48 relazione	48
15 parità	98	32 hyperlink	65	49 media	47
16 istituto	98	33 salute	64	50 partecipazione	47
17 anno	97	34 punto	63		

Figure 2. The first 50 nouns in the Italian sub-corpus

4.2. Interactive features

As for metadiscourse, the interactive features we analysed are *transition markers*, *frame markers*, *evidentials*, and *code glosses*. According to Hyland, *transition markers* are mainly conjunctions and adverbial phrases which help readers interpret pragmatic connections between steps in an argument (2005: 50). They can signal addition, comparison or consequence, as shown in Table 6a, where occurrences are also provided normalised to 1,000 with their standardised type/token ratio (STTR).

Transition markers in EIGE 2016-2020 EN		# of occurrences	Normalised to 1,000 words STTR
Addition: adding arguments	and	1318	40.58
	still	16	0.49
	further	9	0.28
	furthermore, in addition moreover	7 1	0.22 0.03
Comparison: comparing and contrasting events	but	55	1.69
	while	24	0.74
	however	23	0.71
	although	7	0.22
	though	6	0.18
	rather	5	0.15
	even though, whereas	3	0.09
	in contrast, nevertheless	2	0.06
	at the same time	1	0.03
on the other hand	0	0.00	
Consequence: drawing conclusions	because	18	0.55
	result in	11	0.34
	so, therefore	7	0.22
	yet	2	0.06
	as a result	3	0.09
	thus	1	0.03

Table 6a. Transition markers in EIGE 2016-2020 EN

In the English sub-corpus, the most frequent transition marker used to add arguments is *and*, as might be expected, with a STTR of 40.58. Regarding the markers of comparison, *but* is present with a STTR of 1.69, *while* of 0.74 and *however* of 0.71. As for the markers of consequence, results show the presence of *because* with a STTR of 0.55, *result in* of 0.34 and *so* and *therefore* with a STTR of 0.22. While markers such as *however*, *but* and *because* are contained in sentences which have been translated literally into Italian, the consequence marker *result in* involved some kind of sentence manipulation and alteration in the translation process. Consider the following examples:

Excerpt (1-EN)

For example, of the 1160 incidents of revenge porn reported during the first six months after criminalisation in the UK, 61% *resulted in* no further action pursued against the alleged perpetrator. (CYBEREN)

Excerpt (1-IT)

Ad esempio, dei 1160 casi di pornografia della vendetta denunciati nei primi sei mesi dopo la loro configurazione come reato nel Regno Unito, nel 61% dei casi **non sono seguite ulteriori azioni penali** contro il presunto esecutore. (CYBERIT)

In Excerpt (1-EN), the subject of the clause is *61%*. In the Italian version (1-IT), the subject is the noun phrase *ulteriori azioni penali* and the verb in the negative form (***non sono seguite***) is fronted in the clause.

Excerpt (2-EN)

It is anticipated that the new STEM jobs will produce a great deal of work and be well-paid, **resulting in** improved EU competitiveness and a gradual closure of the gender pay gap. (DIGEN)

Excerpt (2-IT)

Si prevede che le nuove professioni STEM daranno luogo a un gran numero di posti di lavoro ben retribuiti: la competitività dell'UE conoscerà un miglioramento e il divario retributivo tra i generi sarà gradualmente colmato. (DIGIT)

In Excerpt (2-EN), the subordinate clause is introduced by ***resulting in***. In the Italian translation in Excerpt (2-IT), there are two complex sentences linked by a semi-colon. The second sentence is made up of two compound clauses in the simple future tense: *la competitività dell'UE conoscerà un miglioramento e il divario retributivo tra i generi sarà gradualmente colmato*. Therefore, the notion of result and consequence is missing in Italian, where there is a projection towards *future events* instead.

The distribution of transition markers in the Italian sub-corpus, as shown in Table 6b, is a possible indication of the different organisation of the discourse in the two languages, since in English coordination between clauses is preferred to subordination, while in Italian it is rather the opposite. As in the English sub-corpus, in the Italian sub-corpus the most frequent transition marker used to add

arguments is *e*, with a STTR of 32.44. This last value is meaningfully lower than that referring to the use of *and* in the English corpus. As mentioned above, this is possibly due to the different syntactic preferences in the Italian text production, with hypotactic sentence construction and longer period organisation. As a matter of fact, with respect to the English sub-corpus, a larger variety of transition markers used to add arguments was found in the Italian sub-corpus. The ones with higher frequency were *come*, with a STTR of 2.23, *anche*, with a STTR of 1.77, and *inoltre*, with a STTR of 0.71. Conversely, the occurrence of transition markers to compare and contrast events is slightly lower in the Italian corpus than in the English corpus. Here, *ma* has a STTR of 1.27, while *mentre* of 0.89, and *tuttavia* of 0.66. The most common marker used to draw conclusions in the Italian sub-corpus is *perché*, with a STTR of 0.41, followed by *poiché* with a STTR of 0.30.

Transition markers in EIGE 2016-2020 IT		# occ.	Norm.
Addition: adding arguments	e	1281	32.44
	come	88	2.23
	anche	70	1.77
	inoltre	28	0.71
	pure in aggiunta, per di più	2 0	0.05 0.00
Comparison: comparing and contrasting events	ma	50	1.27
	mentre	35	0.89
	tuttavia	26	0.66
	nonostante, anche se	8	0.20
	piuttosto	3	0.08
	invece	2	0.05
	allo stesso tempo in contrasto, d'altro canto	1 0	0.03 0.00
Consequence: drawing conclusions	perché	16	0.41
	poiché	12	0.30
	pertanto, di conseguenza	6	0.15
	così, quindi	5	0.13
	a causa di	3	0.08
	in questo modo	2	0.05
	perciò, cosicché, sicché, dunque	0	0.00

Table 6b. Transition markers in EIGE 2016-2020 IT

Frame markers can have different functions such as *sequencing*, *labelling stages*, *announcing goals* and *shifting topic*. As can be seen from Table 7a, their occurrences in the English sub-corpus are very low in frequency.

Frame markers in EIGE 2016-2020 EN		# occ.	Norm.
Sequencing	subsequently	3	0.09
	now	2	0.06
	so far, overall	1	0.03
Announcing goals	objective(s)	2	0.06
	purpose(s)	1	0.03
	goal(s), aim(s)	0	0.00
Shifting topic	so	7	0.22
	now, in this regard	2	0.06

Table 7a. Frame markers in EIGE 2016-2020 EN

Consider the following examples of *subsequently* as an instance of frame marker which helps sequence the information in the text.

Excerpt (3-EN)

Subsequently in 2015, a helpline for victims of revenge porn was established [...] (CYBEREN)

Excerpt (3-IT)

Successivamente, nel 2015, è stato istituito un servizio di assistenza telefonica per le vittime della pornografia della vendetta [...] (CYBERIT)

In Excerpt (3-IT), *subsequently* is translated as *successivamente* in Italian focusing on the temporal order of events, rather than on the causal relationship between facts. Conversely, in Excerpt (4-IT) and (5-IT) below, *subsequently* is rendered as *di conseguenza* and *conseguentemente*, focusing on the logic result of the actions. The structure of the sentences remains fairly analogous since in such cases the literal translation into Italian does not include any amplification or reduction.

Excerpt (4-EN)

The resulting feelings of shame, fear and helplessness lead to low levels of reporting and, **subsequently**, relatively few convictions. (CYBEREN)

Excerpt (4-IT)

Le conseguenti sensazioni di vergogna, paura e impotenza sono alla base dei bassi livelli di denuncia e, **di conseguenza**, delle condanne relativamente ridotte. (CYBERIT)

Excerpt (5-EN)

Gender segregations at all levels of education leads to occupational segregation and **subsequently** impacts on the future career options of both women and men. (IND2015EN)

Excerpt (5-IT)

La segregazione di genere a tutti i livelli dell'istruzione determina la segregazione occupazionale e **conseguentemente** ha effetti sulle opportunità di carriera future sia delle donne che degli uomini. (IND2015IT)

As Table 7b shows, the presence of frame markers in the Italian sub-corpus is altogether appreciably higher than in the English corpus. Indeed, the Italian versions of the EIGE reports seem to use respectively, a higher variety of *sequencing* items, such as *di conseguenza* with STTR of 0.15, of *labelling stages* features such as *ora* with a STTR of 0.58, *attualmente* with a STTR of 0.18, and *in generale* with a STTR of 0.15, of *announcing goals* such as *a tal fine* with a STTR of 0.28 and *shifting topic* markers such as *a riguardo* with a STTR of 0.15.

Frame markers in EIGE 2016-2020 IT		# occ.	Norm.
Sequencing	di conseguenza	6	0.15
	in seguito, successivamente, conseguentemente	1	0.03
Labelling stages	ora	23	0.58
	attualmente	7	0.18
	in generale	6	0.15
	finora	2	0.05
	adesso, complessivamente	1	0.03
	nel complesso, per ora	0	0.00
Announcing goals	a tal/al fine/ai fini	11	0.28
	obiettivo	3	0.08
	scopo/i	2	0.05
Shifting topic	così	5	0.13
	a riguardo	6	0.15
	adesso, a (...) proposito di	1	0.03

Table 7b. Frame markers in EIGE 2016-2020 IT

Evidentials are references to another source which guide the reader's interpretation and establish an authorial command of the subject (Hyland 2005: 51). Table 8a shows the presence of *according to* with a STTR of 0.31, of *Law* when referring to a particular piece of legislation with a STTR of 0.22, and of the expression *research shows*, pointing to research which is external to the text in question, with a STTR of 0.06.

Evidentials in EIGE 2016-2020 EN	# occ.	Norm.
according to	10	0.31
Law (reference to a particular Law)	7	0.22
research shows	2	0.06

Table 8a. Evidentials in EIGE 2016-2020 EN

Figure 3 shows the concordance lines for *according to*, which is habitually followed by authoritative research, studies and surveys, and institutions such as the World Health Organisation, Eurostat and the Italian National Institute of Statistics, all of whom are providers of objective and relevant data and information.

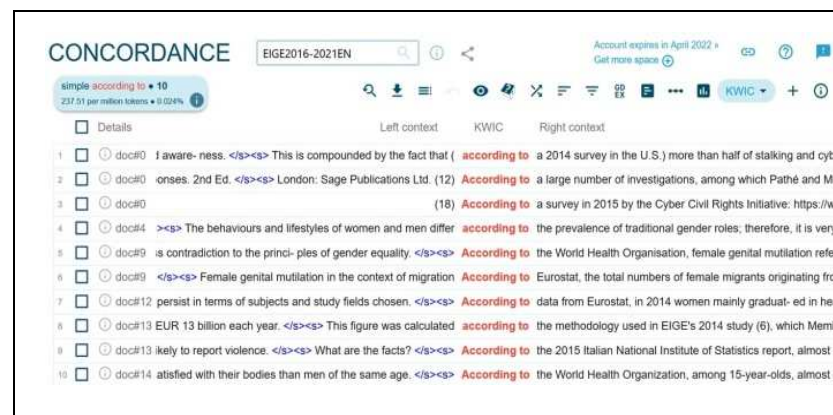


Figure 3. Concordance lines for *according to*, as extracted from Sketch Engine

In the Italian sub-corpus, evidentials seem to be present with a similar frequency to that of the English sub-corpus, as Table 8b indicates. However, it is worth mentioning that the evidential *according to* in

English and the Italian equivalent *secondo* are often followed by expressions such as, respectively, *survey*, *investigation* and *data* in English, and *indagine*, *fonte*, *relazione* and *dati* in Italian.

Evidentials in EIGE 2016-2020 IT	# occ.	Norm.
secondo	16	0.41
la legge (reference to a particular Law)	4	0.10
la ricerca rivela/dimostra	1	0.03
a detta di, in base a	0	0.00

Table 8b. Evidentials in EIGE 2016-2020 IT

Table 9a shows the quantitative data in the English corpus for all the *code glosses* we found. These supply additional information by rephrasing, explaining or elaborating what has been said, so as to ensure the reader is able to recover the writer's intended meaning (Hyland 2005: 52).

Code glosses in EIGE 2016-2020 EN	# occ.	Norm.
such as	35	1.08
for example	19	0.58
e.g.	7	0.22
this means, defined as, in fact	2	0.06
for instance, specifically, which mean, known as, namely	1	0.03

Table 9a. Code glosses in EIGE 2016-2020 EN

The presence of the code gloss *such as* with a STTR of 1.08 deserves a more thorough investigation in order to understand how it is used in the English sub-corpus and how it is rendered in the Italian versions. Consider the examples below:

Excerpt (6-EN)

Due to this expectation, women tend to work in 'traditionally feminine' occupations **such as** childcare, care for older people, teaching and nursing. These jobs are paid significantly less compared to sectors dominated by men, **such as** information technology. The care industry is dominated by women. (PAYEN)

Excerpt (6-IT)

A causa di questa aspettativa, le donne tendono a svolgere professioni 'tradizionalmente femminili', **come** l'assistenza ai minori, l'assistenza agli anziani, l'insegnamento e l'assistenza infermieristica. Questi posti di lavoro sono pagati molto meno rispetto ai settori dominati dagli uomini, **come** l'informatica. L'industria dell'assistenza è dominata dalle donne. (PAYIT)

Excerpt (7-EN)

Cyber harassment can take many forms, but for the purposes of this paper, it can include: [...]

- Hate speech, meaning language that denigrates, insults, threatens or targets an individual based on her identity (gender) and other traits (**such as** sexual orientation or disability).

[...] However, perpetrators are not necessarily partners or ex-partners and the motive is not always revenge. Images can also be obtained by hacking into the victim's computer, social media accounts or phone, and can aim to inflict real damage on the target's 'real-world' life (**such as** getting them fired from their job). (CYBEREN)

Excerpt (7-IT)

Le molestie online possono assumere diverse forme, ma ai fini del presente documento possono includere: [...]

- incitamento all'odio, ovvero linguaggio che denigra, insulta, minaccia o colpisce un individuo sulla base della sua identità (genere) e di altri aspetti (**quali** orientamento sessuale o disabilità).

[...] Tuttavia, gli esecutori non sono necessariamente partner o ex partner e il motivo non è sempre la vendetta. Le immagini possono essere ottenute anche attaccando il computer, i profili dei social media o il telefono della vittima, e possono mirare a infliggere un danno reale nella vita 'del mondo reale' dei destinatari (**ad esempio** facendoli licenziare dal lavoro). (CYBERIT)

In Excerpt (6-IT), *such as* is translated with the Italian conjunction *come* which introduces the explanation of what has been said just above and provides explanatory examples of traditionally feminine occupations and of sectors dominated by men. Conversely, in Excerpt (7-IT), the first time it appears, *such as* is translated as *quali*, the adjectival and pronominal equivalent of the conjunction *come*. The second occurrence of *such as* in the same Excerpt is translated as the locution *per esempio*, in order to provide an example of *real damage to the target's 'real-world' life*.

Code glosses in EIGE 2016-2020 IT	# occ.	Norm.
come	88	2.23
ad esempio	23	0.58
in particolare	20	0.51
quale, per esempio	8	0.20
così, ossia	5	0.13
ciò/il che significa che	4	0.10
che significa, ovvero	2	0.05
specificamente, in realtà	1	0.03
del tipo, nel/in modo specifico, definite come, volendo dire, vuol dire, noto/conosciuto come, cioè, in effetti, di fatto	0	0.00

Table 9b. Code glosses in EIGE 2016-2020 IT

From a translational point of view, we noticed that some expansions are utilised with code glosses to reinforce ideas and concepts. In the following examples, *such as* is expanded through the Italian *come ad esempio*, by using two code glosses together.

Excerpt (8-EN)

Other measures can also be implemented by Member States, **such as** including gender balance in economic decision-making in national and regional strategies and action plans. (FINEN)

Excerpt (8-IT)

Gli Stati membri possono attuare anche altre misure, **come ad esempio** includere l'equilibrio di genere nel processo decisionale economico nelle strategie e nei piani d'azione nazionali e regionali. (FINIT)

Excerpt (9-EN)

In light of emerging demographic trends, **such as** ageing societies, lower birth rates and consequently the decline of the working age population, the need for formal and informal long-term care services becomes more important than ever. (IND2019EN)

Excerpt (9-IT)

Alla luce delle tendenze demografiche emergenti, **come ad esempio** l'invecchiamento delle società, la diminuzione del tasso di natalità e, di conseguenza, il declino della popolazione in età lavorativa, la necessità di servizi formali e informali di assistenza a lungo termine diventa sempre più importante. (IND2019IT)

4.3 Interactional features

The interactional features this study focuses on are *boosters*, *attitude markers*, *self-mentions* and *engagement markers*.

Boosters are words “which allow writers to close down alternatives, head off conflicting views and express their certainty in what they say” (Hyland, 2005: 52). In the English sub-corpus, we are considering the occurrences of the verb *show*, in its conjugated forms, with a STTR of 1.39, the highest frequency rate compared to the other boosters (Table 10).

Boosters in EIGE 2016-2020 EN	# occ.	Norm.
show*	45	1.39
find*	21	0.65
certain, think	7	0.22
clear, know	6	0.18
always	5	0.15
demonstrate	3	0.09
actually	2	0.06
clearly, never, proved, true	1	0.03

Table 10a. Boosters in EIGE 2016-2020 EN

Figure 4 displays some of the concordance lines of the verb *show* whose subjects are *research*, *surveys*, *the Gender Equality index*, and the results of several statistical analyses as they appear in the left context of the concordance lines.

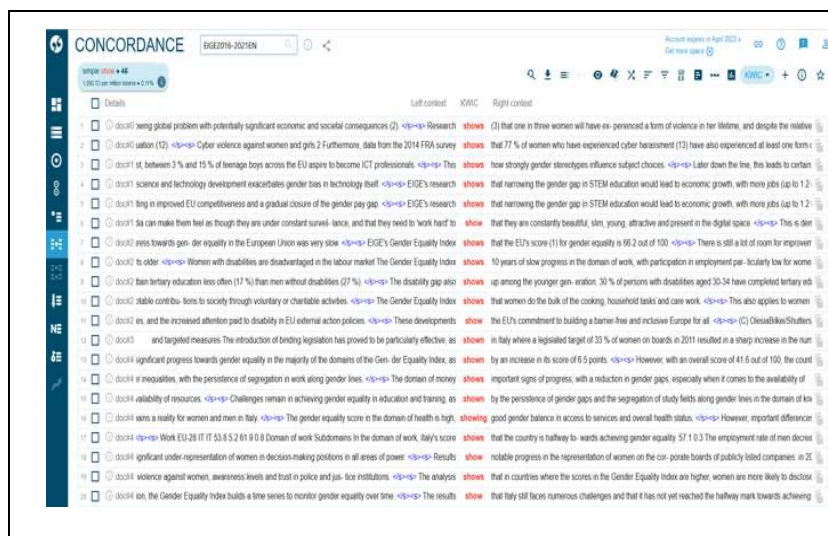


Figure 4. Concordance lines of *show*

In a similar manner, in the Italian sub-corpus we found the verb *mostrare*, with a STTR of 0.63, which has the highest frequency rate, compared to the other boosters.

Boosters in EIGE 2016-2020 IT	# occ.	Norm.
<i>mostrare</i> *	25	0.63
<i>trovare</i> *	17	0.43
<i>sapere</i> *	16	0.41
<i>sempre</i>	9	0.23
<i>dimostrare</i> *	7	0.18
<i>chiaro</i>	6	0.15
<i>pensare</i> *	4	0.10
<i>effettivamente, chiaramente, mai, certo, in realtà</i>	1	0.03
<i>veramente, davvero, testimoniare</i>	0	0.00

Table 10b. Boosters in EIGE 2016-2020 IT

Excerpt (10-EN)

When considering the entire EU population, **data shows** that 92% of EU women are regular carers - meaning that they provide unpaid care at least several days a week - as opposed to 68% of men. (PAYEN)

Excerpt (10-IT)

Se si considera l'intera popolazione dell'UE, **i dati mostrano** che il 92 % delle donne dell'UE fornisce regolarmente assistenza - il che significa che fornisce assistenza non retribuita almeno per diversi giorni alla settimana - rispetto al 68 % degli uomini. (PAYIT)

Excerpt (10-EN) exemplifies the use of the verb *show*: in this case the subject is *data* while in other cases, as it can be seen from the concordance lines in Figure 4, it can be *EIGE's research*, *the Gender Equality index*, *these developments*, and the more general *the results* and *the analysis*. The subject-verb constructions in the documents are used to support a claim or express a viewpoint more assertively and convincingly.

Excerpt (11-EN)

A clear indicator of these inequalities is the unadjusted gender pay gap. It measures the difference between the average gross hourly earnings of women and men employees, and it currently stands at 16 % across the EU. **A second indicator** is the gender gap in overall earnings, which takes gender gaps in employment rate and working time into account. It gives **an even clearer picture** of this divide and is much higher across all countries, reaching almost 40 % at EU level. (PAYEN)

Excerpt (11-IT)

Un chiaro indicatore di queste disuguaglianze è il differenziale retributivo non corretto di genere. Misura la differenza tra la retribuzione oraria lorda media dei lavoratori dipendenti di sesso maschile e femminile ed è attualmente pari al 16 % in tutta l'UE. **Un secondo indicatore** è il divario di genere nei guadagni complessivi, che tiene conto del divario di genere nel tasso di occupazione e nell'orario di lavoro. Fornisce **un quadro ancora più chiaro** di questo divario ed è molto più elevato in tutti i paesi, raggiungendo quasi il 40 % a livello di UE. (PAYIT)

In Excerpt (11-EN), when talking about the gender pay gap, the booster represented by the adjective *clear* and the noun *indicator* expands as in a *crescendo* through a second stage to provide *an even clearer picture* of the pay divide in a final stage, using both the adverb *even* and the adjective *clear* in its comparative form. In Italian (Excerpt (11-IT)) *un chiaro indicatore delle disuguaglianze* is followed by *un secondo indicatore*, which is *il divario di genere*, i.e. the gender gap, to finally provide *un quadro ancora più chiaro di questo divario*, an even clearer

picture of this gap. These boosters play a crucial role in mediating the relationship between what the institution intends to argue and the discourse communities who are reading the documents.

Self-mentions refer to the explicit presence of the author/writer in the text, measured by the frequency of the first-person pronoun and possessive adjective.

Self-mentions in EIGE 2016-2020 EN	# occ.	Norm.
I	10	0.31
we (exclusive)	5	0.15
we (inclusive)	4	0.12
we (direct speech)	2	0.06
my	4	0.12
our	4	0.12
us, me	2	0.06

Table 11a. Self-mentions in EIGE 2016-2020 EN

As can be seen from Table 11a, the first person singular *I* is present in the English sub-corpus with a STTR of 0.31, while the plural *we* exclusive with a STTR of 0.15, and *we* inclusive of 0.12. However, the first person singular of the personal pronoun is generally omitted in the Italian versions, as shown by Excerpts (12-IT) and (13-IT).

Excerpt (12-EN)

“I’m too frightened to express my opinions online. **I** keep them to myself because **I** know that there will always be someone out there who won’t like what **I** post” (girl, aged 15, Sweden) (DIGEN)

Excerpt (12-IT)

“Ho troppa paura di esprimere le mie opinioni online. Le tengo per me perché so che ci sarà sempre qualcuno che non gradirà i contenuti di ciò che pubblico online” (ragazza quindicenne svedese) (DIGIT)

Excerpt (13-EN)

But **I** think men have more trouble to talk about things. Even if we are abused, we don’t talk about it.” (boy, aged 16, Sweden) (YOUTHEN)

Excerpt (13-IT)

“Penso però che i maschi abbiano più difficoltà a parlare di queste cose anche se subiamo degli abusi, non ne parliamo.” (ragazzo sedicenne svedese) (YOUTHIT)

Excerpt (14-EN)

Digital technology has changed many things in **our** lives, but how is it affecting gender equality? Digitalisation has transformed the character of the labour market, changed the way **we** interact with **our** friends, shaped political participation, is impacting the future of work and also carries the risk of cyberviolence. (DIGEN)

Excerpt (14-IT)

La tecnologia digitale ha cambiato molti aspetti della **nostra** vita, ma come incide sull'uguaglianza di genere? La digitalizzazione ha trasformato il carattere del mercato del lavoro, ha modificato il **nostro** modo di interagire con gli amici, ha modellato le forme della partecipazione politica, esercita un impatto sul futuro del lavoro e comporta anche il rischio della violenza virtuale. (DIGIT)

Excerpt (15-EN)

In addition to stronger legislation, **we need** to support young people, so that they become aware of the risks of digitalisation. (YOUTHEN)

Excerpt (15-IT)

Oltre a una legislazione più rigorosa, **occorre** un'azione di sostegno per i giovani che li renda consapevoli dei rischi della digitalizzazione. (YOUTHIT)

In the examples given here, inclusive *we* is used to include and involve the readers and the public at large (see, notably Excerpts (14-EN), (14-IT)). On the other hand, in Excerpt (15-EN) notice that the inclusive *we* in the clause *we need to support young people* is rendered in Excerpt (15-IT) with an impersonal clause: *occorre un'azione di sostegno per i giovani* which indirectly appeals to the general public, indicating a higher degree of formality.

Excerpt (16-EN)

Each year we score EU Member States and the EU as a whole to see how far they are from reaching gender equality. The index uses a scale of 1 to 100, where 1 is for total inequality and 100 is for total equality. (IND2019EN)

Excerpt (16-IT)

Per calcolare la distanza che resta da percorrere per raggiungere l'uguaglianza di genere, **all'UE e ai suoi Stati membri vengono assegnati ogni anno una serie di punteggi**. L'indice sull'uguaglianza di genere utilizza una scala da 1 a 100, in cui 1 corrisponde alla totale disparità e 100 alla totale parità. (IND2019IT)

Excerpt (16-EN) contains an instance of exclusive *we* used to explain how the *index for gender equality* is calculated. The subject in English is the EIGE itself, while in Excerpt (16.IT) the same clause is rendered with a passive impersonal clause. Therefore, the agent performing the action of scoring is absent in the Italian version.

Self-mentions in EIGE 2016-2020 IT	# occ.	Norm.
io/noi/mia/o/e/ei/nostro/noi/me/-mi	0	0.00
nostre	1	0.03
nostra/i	3	0.08

Table 11b. Self-mentions in EIGE 2016-2020 IT

As mentioned, the use of the subject pronouns is usually redundant in Italian as it is already indicated by the verb form; accordingly, in the Italian sub-corpus there are no occurrences of the first persons singular and plural of the personal pronoun.

Let us now consider *engagement markers* and, more specifically, the use of the second person pronoun *you*, which has a STTR of 0.37 in the English sub-corpus.

Engagement markers in EIGE 2016-2020 EN	# occ.	Norm.
you	12	0.37
see	6	0.15
your	3	0.09
look at	1	0.03

Table 12a. Engagement markers in EIGE 2016-2020 EN

Some instantiations can be observed below:

Excerpt (17-EN)

At **your** place of work are there workers with the same job title as **you**? Is **your** immediate boss a man or a woman? (Fig. 1, DIGEN)

Excerpt (17-IT)

Nel **suo** luogo di lavoro vi sono altri lavoratori che hanno la **sua** stessa qualifica? Il **suo** diretto superiore è un uomo o una donna? (Fig.1, DIGIT)

Excerpt (18-EN)

If **you're** looking for more statistics on women and men in decision-making, **make sure you** check EIGE's Gender Statistics Database. (FINEN)

Excerpt (18-IT)

Se **state** cercando ulteriori statistiche sulle donne e gli uomini nel processo decisionale, **controllate** la banca dati delle statistiche di genere dell'EIGE. (FINIT)

Excerpt (19-EN)

You can explore all of EIGE's previous BPfA reports and publications at <https://eige.europa.eu/beijing-platform-for-action>. (PAYEN)

Excerpt (19-IT)

Tutte le precedenti relazioni e pubblicazioni dell'EIGE riguardanti la piattaforma d'azione di Pechino sono accessibili all'indirizzo <https://eige.europa.eu/beijing-platform-for-action> (PAYIT)

Excerpt (17-EN) comes from a survey in the brochure about digitalisation. The questions asked regard the gender composition of the workplaces of ICT specialists within the EU. Notice that the pronoun *you* is rendered in Excerpt (17.IT) through the use of the formal third person singular pronoun, the courtesy form, *suo* and *sua*.

In Excerpt (18-EN), the author is addressing the readers directly in an informal manner, using the contracted form of the verb: *if you're looking for more statistics* and the imperative *make sure*. The Italian version in Excerpt (18-IT) maintains the same degree of informality. On the contrary, the direct appeal to the public through the use of the pronoun *you* in Excerpt (19-EN) is not present in the Italian version (Excerpt (19-IT)).

Engagement markers in EIGE 2016-2020 IT	# occ.	Norm.
tu, vostra	1	0.03
se si guarda	1	0.03
si analizzi/guardi/veda	0	0.00
tua/a/e/oi, vostro/i/e	0	0.00

Table 12b. Engagement markers in EIGE 2016-2020 IT

Hedges are those markers which “emphasize the subjectivity of a position by allowing information to be presented as an opinion rather than a fact and therefore open that position to negotiation” (Hyland 2005: 52). Table 13a shows the hedges found in the English sub-corpus, while Table 13b shows the ones found in the Italian sub-corpus.

Hedges in EIGE 2016-2020 EN	# occ.	Norm.
about	46	1.42
likely	31	0.95
almost	21	0.65
often	15	0.46
around	14	0.43
tend to	10	0.31
suggest	8	0.25
relatively	7	0.22
usually, mostly, indicate	6	0.18
rather, it is estimated	5	0.15
generally, in general, largely, from x’s perspective	3	0.09
seems, mainly, approximately	2	0.06
broadly, typically, roughly, quite	1	0.03

Table 13a. Hedges in EIGE 2016-2020 EN

Hedges in EIGE 2016-2020 IT	# occ.	Norm.
sul/sull’/sui/sugli	223	5.65
sulla/sulle	172	4.36
su	65	1.65
quasi, circa	23	0.58
spesso	14	0.35
soprattutto	8	0.20
relativamente	7	0.18
in generale	6	0.15
di solito, si stima	5	0.13
principalmente	4	0.10
tende a, indica, piuttosto, tendono a	3	0.08

bensi, invece	2	0.05
ampiamente, sembra, a quanto sembra, normalmente, in genere, approssimativamente, essenzialmente, sostanzialmente, propone, afferma	1	0.03
prevalentemente, largamente, comunemente, tipicamente, usualmente, generalmente, perlopiù, abitualmente, innanzitutto, solitamente, riguardo a, suggerisce, dice, consiglia, ipotizza si calcola, anzi, appare/appaiono	0	0.00

Table 13b. Hedges in EIGE 2016-2020 IT

It is worth noticing that out of the 10 occurrences of *tend to*, as shown in Table 13a, 7 regard the working positions and tasks of women within the couple and the family, as exemplified by Excerpt (20-EN) and (20-IT), in which caring is seen as a stereotypical traditional feminine occupation. The remaining 3 occurrences regard the population and their trust in the police and in the justice institution. The verb *tend to* is used to mitigate the strength of the statements.

Excerpt (20-EN)

Horizontal segregation is the concentration of women or men in certain occupations. It reflects the traditional division of roles in the domestic sphere, which extends to the job market. For example, caring is stereotypically regarded as women's work. Due to this expectation, women **tend to** work in 'traditionally feminine' occupations such as childcare, care for older people, teaching and nursing. (PAYEN)

Excerpt (20-IT)

La segregazione orizzontale rappresenta la concentrazione di donne o uomini in determinate professioni. Riflette la tradizionale ripartizione dei ruoli in ambito domestico, che si estende al mercato del lavoro. Per esempio, l'assistenza è considerata, secondo gli stereotipi, come un lavoro da donna. A causa di questa aspettativa, le donne **tendono a** svolgere professioni 'tradizionalmente femminili', come l'assistenza ai minori, l'assistenza agli anziani, l'insegnamento e l'assistenza infermieristica. (PAYIT)

As far as modals are concerned, as Table 14a shows, the most frequently used modals in the brochures are *can*, with a STTR of 2.12, *should* of 1.17, and *would* of 0.71.

Modals in EIGE 2016-2020 EN	# occ.	Norm.
can	69	2.12
should	38	1.17
would	23	0.71
need to	15	0.46
could	12	0.37
may	7	0.22
might, must	5	0.15

Table 14a. Modals in EIGE 2016-2020 EN

Our attention was caught by the concordance lines of the modal *should*, 25 occurrences of which, out of 38, couple with the verb *to be* in constructions such as *policy responses should be formulated* (CYBEREN), *a gender perspective should be introduced* (CYBEREN), *gender-sensitive provisions should be adopted* (MUTEN), *awareness should be raised* (MUTEN), *data should be collected* (MUTEN). All these verbal phrases are translated literally into Italian, but in most cases the verb in the conditional mood is in initial position in the sentence: *le risposte politiche dovrebbero essere formulate* (CYBERIT), *dovrebbe essere introdotta (una formazione sulla violenza virtuale contro le donne e le ragazze) con una prospettiva di genere* (CYBERIT), *dovrebbero essere adottate disposizioni che tengano conto della dimensione di genere* (MUTIT), *dovrebbero essere realizzate campagne informative dell'opinione pubblica* (MUTIT), *dovrebbero essere raccolti dati* (MUTIT).

In the Italian sub-corpus, the verb *dovere* appears with a STTR of 1.77. It is noteworthy here to point out that the forms of this verb found with the highest frequency are the third person singular and plural of the present tense conditional *dovrebbe*, with a STTR of 0.33, and *dovrebbero*, with a STTR of 0.48, as already shown by the previous examples. Similarly, if the verb *potere* has a STTR of 3.04, the most frequently used forms and moods are the third person singular and plural of the present tense indicative, respectively, *può* with a STTR of 0.84, and *possono* with a STTR of 0.73, and the third person singular and plural of the present tense conditional *potrebbe* and *potrebbero*, both with a STTR of 0.23. The prevalent use of the third persons and of the verbs in the conditional mood in the Italian sub-corpus is due to the preference in this language for less direct, impersonal, more formal

structures, in the written registers, especially in institutional documents which are not strictly prescriptive, but rather informative and divulgative. Thus, *should* is used as a suggestion and a recommendation to the audience and to the various institutions since these documents are informative brochures aiming at convincing the public and the governmental actors of the benefits of a certain action, rather than seeking to impose an obligation.

Modals in EIGE 2016-2020 IT	# occ.	Norm.
dovere*	70	1.77
deve	7	0.18
devono	17	0.43
dovrebbe	13	0.33
dovrebbero	19	0.48
potere*	120	3.04
può	33	0.84
possono	29	0.73
potrebbe, potrebbero	9	0.23
è necessario	6	0.15
avere bisogno di, riuscire, essere in grado di	1	0.03
può essere che	0	0.00

Table 14b. Modals in EIGE 2016-2020 IT

5. Conclusions

This study has endeavoured to show how metadiscursive features are used in gender related informative brochures produced by EIGE, i.e. the European Institute for Gender Equality. Thirty documents were analysed in two sub-corpora, consisting of their English and corresponding Italian versions. The brochures cover topics such as gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, cyber-violence, disability, Stem education, poverty and digitalization. Both quantitative and qualitative results show how some specific metadiscursive commentaries tend to inform the reader in a persuasive manner by employing a conversational register. It has been particularly fruitful to

compare the distribution and frequencies of metadiscursive markers found in the English sub-corpus with those in the Italian sub-corpus because different distributions of such markers in the two sub-corpora revealed to be indicative, not only of different styles, but also of different level of awareness, concern or sensitivity about gender and equality. Interactive and interactional aspects of metadiscourse combine to create a close connection with the readers in both language versions. However, the English documents show a higher level of informality in the use of self-mentions and engagement markers, whereas Italian uses impersonal and passive constructions and more formal forms of courtesy to address the audience, as shown by the concordance lines and the translations found in the Italian versions.

Gender equality is one of the European Union core values, EIGE collects, analyses and disseminates data and information on gender equality issues and its documents in many of the languages of the EU are reliable and relevant for the users. As already argued at the beginning of our discussion, Suau Jiménez had already underlined that not only propositional meaning had to be the focus of translation, but rather how the relationship between writer and reader is established in the different languages. Accordingly, it is vital to take metadiscourse and especially interpersonal functions into account and investigate them both quantitatively and qualitatively. Metadiscourse in both languages, English and Italian, can be deemed as a highly relevant and significant, persuasive linguistic tool aimed at creating a direct line of dialogue with readers on current much-debated topics.

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