



Hacettepe University Graduate School of Social Sciences

Department of Translation and Interpreting

English Translation and Interpreting Programme

**A STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF TRANSLATION STRATEGIES
ON VIDEO GAME IMMERSION: THE CASE OF 'BASTION'**

Sena Nur YILDIZ

Master's Thesis

Ankara, 2025

A STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF TRANSLATION STRATEGIES ON VIDEO GAME
IMMERSION: THE CASE OF 'BASTION'

Sena Nur YILDIZ

Hacettepe University Graduate School of Social Sciences
Department of Translation and Interpreting
English Translation and Interpreting Programme

Master's Thesis

Ankara, 2025

ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL

The jury finds that Sena Nur YILDIZ has on the date of 17.06.2025 successfully passed the defence examination and approves her Master's Thesis titled "A Study on the Effects of Translation Strategies on Video Game Immersion: The Case of 'Bastion'".

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yeřim SÖNMEZ DİNÇKAN (Jury President)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alper KUMCU (Adviser)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gökçen HASTÜRKOĞLU (Jury Member)

I agree that the signatures above belong to the faculty members listed.

Prof. Dr. Uğur ÖMÜRGÖNÜLŞEN

Graduate School Director

YAYIMLAMA VE FİKRİ MÜLKİYET HAKLARI BEYANI

Enstitü tarafından onaylanan lisansüstü tezimin/raporumun tamamını veya herhangi bir kısmını, basılı (kağıt) ve elektronik formatta arşivleme ve aşağıda verilen koşullarla kullanıma açma iznini Hacettepe Üniversitesine verdiğimi bildiririm. Bu izinle Üniversiteye verilen kullanım hakları dışındaki tüm fikri mülkiyet haklarım bende kalacak, tezimin tamamının ya da bir bölümünün gelecekteki çalışmalarda (makale, kitap, lisans ve patent vb.) kullanım hakları bana ait olacaktır.

Tezin kendi orijinal çalışmam olduğunu, başkalarının haklarını ihlal etmediğimi ve tezimin tek yetkili sahibi olduğumu beyan ve taahhüt ederim. Tezimde yer alan telif hakkı bulunan ve sahiplerinden yazılı izin alınarak kullanılması zorunlu metinlerin yazılı izin alınarak kullandığımı ve istenildiğinde suretlerini Üniversiteye teslim etmeyi taahhüt ederim.

Yükseköğretim Kurulu tarafından yayınlanan “**Lisansüstü Tezlerin Elektronik Ortamda Toplanması, Düzenlenmesi ve Erişime Açılmasına İlişkin Yönerge**” kapsamında tezim aşağıda belirtilen koşullar haricince YÖK Ulusal Tez Merkezi / H.Ü. Kütüphaneleri Açık Erişim Sisteminde erişime açılır.

- Enstitü / Fakülte yönetim kurulu kararı ile tezimin erişime açılması mezuniyet tarihimden itibaren 2 yıl ertelenmiştir. ⁽¹⁾
- Enstitü / Fakülte yönetim kurulunun gerekçeli kararı ile tezimin erişime açılması mezuniyet tarihimden itibaren ... ay ertelenmiştir. ⁽²⁾
- Tezimle ilgili gizlilik kararı verilmiştir. ⁽³⁾

16/07/2025

Sena Nur Yıldız

¹“Lisansüstü Tezlerin Elektronik Ortamda Toplanması, Düzenlenmesi ve Erişime Açılmasına İlişkin Yönerge”

- (1) Madde 6. 1. Lisansüstü teze ilgili patent başvurusu yapılması veya patent alma sürecinin devam etmesi durumunda, tez danışmanının önerisi ve enstitü anabilim dalının uygun görüşü üzerine enstitü veya fakülte yönetim kurulu iki yıl süre ile tezin erişime açılmasının ertelenmesine karar verebilir.
- (2) Madde 6. 2. Yeni teknik, materyal ve metotların kullanıldığı, henüz makaleye dönüşmemiş veya patent gibi yöntemlerle korunmamış ve internetten paylaşılması durumunda 3. şahıslara veya kurumlara haksız kazanç imkanı oluşturabilecek bilgi ve bulguları içeren tezler hakkında tez danışmanının önerisi ve enstitü anabilim dalının uygun görüşü üzerine enstitü veya fakülte yönetim kurulunun gerekçeli kararı ile altı ayı aşmamak üzere tezin erişime açılması engellenebilir.
- (3) Madde 7. 1. Ulusal çıkarları veya güvenliği ilgilendiren, emniyet, istihbarat, savunma ve güvenlik, sağlık vb. konulara ilişkin lisansüstü tezlerle ilgili gizlilik kararı, tezin yapıldığı kurum tarafından verilir *. Kurum ve kuruluşlarla yapılan işbirliği protokolü çerçevesinde hazırlanan lisansüstü tezlere ilişkin gizlilik kararı ise, ilgili kurum ve kuruluşun önerisi ile enstitü veya fakültenin uygun görüşü üzerine üniversite yönetim kurulu tarafından verilir. Gizlilik kararı verilen tezler Yükseköğretim Kuruluna bildirilir.
Madde 7.2. Gizlilik kararı verilen tezler gizlilik süresince enstitü veya fakülte tarafından gizlilik kuralları çerçevesinde muhafaza edilir, gizlilik kararının kaldırılması halinde Tez Otomasyon Sistemine yüklenir

* Tez danışmanının önerisi ve enstitü anabilim dalının uygun görüşü üzerine enstitü veya fakülte yönetim kurulu tarafından karar verilir.

ETİK BEYAN

Bu alıřmadaki bütn bilgi ve belgeleri akademik kurallar erevesinde elde ettiđimi, grsel, iřitsel ve yazılı tm bilgi ve sonuları bilimsel ahlak kurallarına uygun olarak sunduđumu, kullandıđım verilerde herhangi bir tahrifat yapmadıđımı, yararlandıđım kaynaklara bilimsel normlara uygun olarak atıfta bulunduđumu, tezimin kaynak gsterilen durumlar dıřında zgn olduđunu, **Do. Dr. Alper KUMCU** danıřmanlıđında tarafımdan retildiđini ve Hacettepe niversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstits Tez Yazım Ynergesine gre yazıldıđımı beyan ederim.

Sena Nur YILDIZ

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my thesis advisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alper Kumcu for his mentorship and patience during my studies. His trust and guidance became a great source of confidence from the beginning to the end.

A very special thanks goes to my partner Arçin, the unseen hero of this study with his coding magic. Eternally grateful and extremely lucky to have you by my side.

This study would not be completed without my team of translators; İdil, Nilay, Sezen, Taner, Beren, Onur, Eren, Yağmur, and Sedef, who spent countless hours and immense effort for the translation of source material, and 24 players who volunteered to experience the said material and provide invaluable data. Thank you for stepping up when I needed the most.

Lastly and most importantly, My Mom, Dad, Little Sis, Fur Baby, Grandmother and every part of my big family: You're the best I could ask for. Thank you for raising me, supporting me, and trusting me.

ABSTRACT

YILDIZ, Sena Nur. *A Study on the Effects of Translation Strategies on Video Game Immersion: The Case of 'Bastion'*, Master's Thesis Ankara, 2025.

The main focus of this thesis is the possible relationship between video game immersion and video game localization. Video games are basically multimedia products that aim to "immerse" players within the story and fictional world. Localization of narrative elements is deeply intertwined with immersion. The main aim of this study is to identify to what extent translation strategies affect the immersion level of video games. Another aim is to focus on the process itself, and identify in what terms the translation choices and work methods, such as roles and software use, of volunteer teams differ from professional teams. For this purpose, two different localisations of the same video game, Bastion, has been produced by two groups of translators, one of which consists of fans with no professional experience and the other consists of professionals. The techniques used in these translations has been analysed to highlight differences. Afterwards, two different player groups played the game with these translations to evaluate the differences in immersion levels. Results of the study indicate that there are no meaningful differences in terms of translation techniques, and teams worked in similar fashion except for software use and involvement of LQA procedure. The immersion scale results of players who experienced this localized target texts proved to be similar as well. It can be argued that the reason for this may be the fact that similar use of techniques. With this study, the importance of further studies focusing on the relationship between different genres of video games, immersion and translation is highlighted.

Keywords

Video Games, Video Game Localization, Immersion, Fan Translation

ÖZET

YILDIZ, Sena Nur. *Çeviri Stratejilerinin Video Oyunlarında Sarmalanmaya Yaptığı Etki Üzerine Bir Çalışma: 'Bastion' Örneği*. Yüksek Lisans Tezi, Ankara, 2025.

Bu tezin odak noktası, video oyun yerelleştirmesi ve video oyunlarının sarmalanma etkisi arasındaki ilişkidir. Video oyunları temelde oyuncuları hikâye ve kurgusal dünya içinde "sarmalamayı" amaçlayan çoklu ortam ürünleridir. Hikâye anlatım elementlerinin yerleştirilmesi sarmalanma etkisini derinden etkilemektedir. Tezin ana hedefi, çeviri stratejilerinin video oyunlarındaki sarmalanma düzeyini ne ölçüde etkilediğini tespit etmektir. Tezin bir diğer amacı da sürecin kendisine odaklanarak gönüllüler ve profesyonellerin yaptığı seçimler, roller, kullanılan yazılımlar gibi hususların ne ölçüde farklı olduğunu ortaya koymaktır. Bu amaçla biri profesyonel deneyime sahip olmayan hayranlar, diğeri profesyonel yerleştirme uzmanlarından oluşan iki ekipten aynı oyunu, Bastion'ı çevirmesi istenerek iki farklı çeviri elde edilmiştir. Çevirilerinde kullanılan teknikler, aralarındaki farkları irdelemek için Analiz edilmiştir. Sonrasında sarmalanma düzeyini ölçmek için iki farklı oyuncu grubundan bu çevirileri barındıran oyunları oynaması istenmiştir. Çalışmanın sonuçları kullanılan çeviri teknikleri arasında anlamlı fark bulunmadığını ve ekiplerin yazılım kullanımı ve yerleştirme kalite güvence prosedürü dışında benzer şekillerde çalıştığını ortaya koymuştur. Sarmalanma ölçeği sonuçlarına göre yerleştirilmiş hedef metinleri oynayan oyuncular da benzer sarmalanma düzeyleri deneyimlemiştir. Bunun sebebi kullanılan çeviri tekniklerinin benzer oluşuyla ilişkilendirilebilir. Bu çalışmayla farklı video oyun türleri, sarmalanma ve çeviri kesişimine odaklanacak gelecek çalışmaların öneminin altı çizilmektedir.

Anahtar Sözcükler

Video Oyunları, Video Oyunu Yerelleştirmesi, Sarmalama, Hayran Çevirisi

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL	I
YAYIMLAMA VE FİKRİ MÜLKİYET HAKLARI BEYANI.....	II
ETİK BEYAN.....	III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	IV
ABSTRACT.....	V
ÖZET	VI
TABLE OF CONTENTS	VII
ABBREVIATIONS.....	IX
LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES.....	X
INTRODUCTION.....	1
CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND	3
1.1. AIM OF THE STUDY.....	3
1.2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS.....	4
1.3. IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY	5
1.4. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS.....	7
CHAPTER 2 : THEORETICAL BACKGROUND.....	8
2.1. A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO VIDEO GAME STUDIES	8
2.1.1. Video Game Genres	9
2.1.2. Immersion in Game Studies	12
2.2. VIDEO GAME LOCALIZATION IN TRANSLATION STUDIES.....	14
2.2.1. Fan Localization in Video Game Localization.....	18
CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY.....	21
3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN.....	21
3.2. PARTICIPANTS	21
3.2.1. Translator Groups (FT vs PT)	21

3.2.2. Player Groups	24
3.3. MATERIALS	25
3.3.1. The Game: Bastion	25
3.3.2. Translation Techniques Framework	28
3.3.3. Immersion Scale	30
3.4. DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE.....	31
3.5. DATA ANALYSIS.....	33
CHAPTER 4: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	36
4.1. TRANSLATION PROCESSES: TEAM STRUCTURE, TOOLS AND WORKFLOW	36
4.2. COMPERATIVE STRATEGY USE: FT VS. PT.....	41
4.3. IMMERSION TEST RESULTS: DESCRIPTIVE AND INFERENCIAL STATISTICS.....	46
CONCLUSION	48
REFERENCES.....	53
APPENDIX 1 ORIGINALITY REPORT.....	59
APPENDIX 2. ETHICS COMMISSION FORM.....	61
APPENDIX 3. APPENDIX 3. A QUESTIONNAIRE OF PLAYER IMMERSION IN COMPUTER GAME NARRATIVE (QIN ET AL., 2009)	62
APPENDIX 4. FAN TRANSLATOR TEAM, THINK ALOUD PROTOCOL VOICE RECORDING TRANSCRIPTIONS.....	64
APPENDIX 5. PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATOR TEAM, THINK ALOUD PROTOCOL VOICE RECORDING TRANSCRIPTIONS.....	71

ABBREVIATIONS

CAT	Computer-Assisted Translation
FT	Fan Translators
LQA	Localization Quality Assurance
PT	Professional Translators
ST	Source Text
TT	Target Text
VGL	Video Game Localization

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1. Demographic information of the FT group.

Table 2. Demographic information of the PT group.

Table 3. Information on the Player groups.

Figure 1. An example of on-screen texts from source material of this thesis, Bastion.

Figure 2. A screenshot from Bastion showing The Kid at the beginning of a level

Figure 3. A screenshot from the Bastion Steam page with the review of a player.

Figure 4. A screenshot from the Bastion Steam page with the review of a player.

Figure 5. The flow chart of the data gathering procedure.

Table 4. Translation Techniques Proposed by Molina and Hurtado Albir in "Translation Techniques Revisited: A Dynamic and Functionalist Approach" (2004).

Figure 6. The flow chart of the data analysis procedure.

Table 5. Analysis of Process

Figure 7. Techniques Adopted by FTs.

Figure 8. Techniques Adopted by PTs.

Table 6. Examples from Localisations

Table 7. T-Test Results for Group Differences in Immersion Dimensions

INTRODUCTION

Games have been one of the hallmarks of human interaction ever since known history. From the first board games uncovered in archaeological excavations with ages spanning millennia to the arcade boom of the 90s, gaming has always been a most popular way of entertainment for many people all around the globe. Unifying communities and paving the way for new, innovative ways of storytelling, games kept challenging what it means to create new experiences for everyone.

When we look at the 21st century, it's obvious that the video games industry turned out to be a phenomenon no one could imagine. According to a news article by Mediacat (2024), the 2024 State of Gaming Report by Dentsu Gaming and GWI indicates that the gaming industry has a market value of \$184 billion, while the global box office and the music industry are worth \$33.9 billion and \$28.6 billion, respectively. Meaning, this somewhat new industry surpassed the total revenue of the cinema and music industries, which is huge considering the long history of its opponents. The shift is so great that right now, we even see these long-established industries try to get a slice of the cake: Movie and serial adaptations of gaming franchises like *The Last of Us*, *Uncharted* and *Warcraft*, and artists such as Travis Scott and Sabrina Carpenter collaborating with *Fortnite* to use their likeness and music in game.

It wouldn't be false to say that the sharp turn of globalization, which is powered by the development and spread of the World Wide Web and new technologies, benefited the gaming industry immensely. Dentsu's findings indicate that as of 2024, 2.4 billion use a device to play games, and the situation is no different in Türkiye: According to the "Türkiye Game Market 2024 Report" by Gaming in Türkiye (2025), there are approximately 48 million gamers playing video games on mobile devices, PCs and consoles, with numbers increasing sharply each and every day.

This puts a huge responsibility on the ever-growing localization industry of Turkey. Despite the efforts of fan communities and professional organizations and an increase in new games gaining official Turkish language support, lots of games still lack Turkish as a language. The existing language barrier directly affects how a content is experienced,

impacting the intended effect of the games themselves. Through this study, the aim is to shed light on the relationship between localization and gameplay experience.

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND

In this chapter, general information on the thesis will be provided to give insights on the aim, research and importance of the study.

1.1 AIM OF THE STUDY

The main purpose of this study is to build a bridge between video game studies and translation studies by highlighting the impact and importance of localization practices adopted in the localization of video games.

The primary aim of this thesis is to identify whether the translation strategies adopted in video game localization affect the immersion level of video games. For this purpose, two groups of translators with different backgrounds in localization, professionals and fan translators, provided localization for the source material, *Bastion*. Afterwards, these two different localizations of *Bastion* were played by two groups of players. Players then filled out “A Questionnaire of Player Immersion in Computer Game Narrative”, presented by Qin et al. (2009), to see if different translation strategies provided different degrees of immersion.

The secondary aim is to find differences in the practices of fan translators and professional translators. Translation strategies were analysed by the researcher to identify their decisions, as well as first-hand experiences of translators to get insights on the tools they used, the challenges they encountered, and the roles they took on.

With the findings of these analyses, I hope to uncover results that are relatable and applicable in both industry and academia, as well as pave the way for more studies that combine video game research and localization.

1.2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This thesis is a multi-layered study, in which both qualitative and quantitative data were analysed to answer multiple questions to highlight the relationship between immersion and the act of localization as follows:

Research Question 1: Do translation strategies have an impact on the effect of immersion that players experience in video games? If they have, to what extent and which strategies provide the higher degree of immersion?

Research Question 2: What are the differences between the practices of professional and fan localizations in terms of software (e.g. CAT Tools), challenges (e.g. Hardships encountered during translation process such as lack of context), and work (e.g. Roles they adopted through the translation process, if any)?

Through research question 1, the effect of translation strategies on player immersion will be investigated. Immersion, which will be further explored in Chapter 2, Theoretical Background, is a fundamental concept of video game studies in which the game developers aim to “immerse” their target players within the fictional world of a video game. For this purpose, they use a wide range of tools such as audio, visuals, and narrative elements. Since localization has a direct connection to narrative elements and also aims to provide the best possible experience for the players, it can be argued that it has an impact on immersion. The question of “To what extent?” is the focal point of this thesis. In order to identify this extent, the immersion scaling questionnaire has been used, which will be further explained in upcoming chapters.

With the research question 2, the process of localization itself will be investigated. Although fan translation communities such as anime subtitlers are researched in various works, “there has been a lack of scholarly work in Translation Studies focusing on the fan translation phenomenon applied to video games” (O’Hagan & Mangiron, 2013). With this study, differences in practices of fan translators and professional translators who provide localization for the same source material will be highlighted. The tools they use, the roles they adopt within the team, and the challenges they encounter, how they choose to resolve them, and what sort of translation strategies they use will be analysed.

The expected results are:

1) One of the target texts ensures a higher degree of immersion, although it is hard to determine whether it will be a professional text or a fan text. TT produced by professionals has a higher chance of providing this since they have a background in industry and expertise in working on a large variety of video game localization projects. However, fan translators, who are also gamers themselves, know gaming environments and expectations of player communities very closely. So, it would not be too far-fetched to assume that they could provide a high degree of immersion as well. Nevertheless, the expectation is that texts will provide different degrees of immersion since there will be two different localizations experienced by two player groups.

2) Professional translation practices have a more structured approach since they are more familiar with industry standards and tools. Since fan translators are generally members of communities with little to no background in professional localization and translation practices, they generally tend to use free, accessible, and basic tools at hand. On the other hand, industry professionals are familiar with a wide variety of computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools, and concepts such as localization quality assurance (LQA), and work in teams with different roles such as project manager, reviewer, and QA specialist. Thus, it is expected that they will have a more structured approach to the process itself.

1.3 IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Although there is a number of research in both globally and locally, using different languages and game types as case points and mentioning “player immersion,” there is still a lack of studies focusing on player experience and localization. As Mangiron (2017, p. 88) states, "as far as participant-oriented research is concerned, as already mentioned, reception studies are still fairly scant and more comparative, cross-cultural, interdisciplinary experiments are necessary in order to analyze aspects such as player experience, immersion, and engagement”. This, combined with the ongoing need for more research on video game localization, makes this study a worthy contribution to the literature, as its main focus is the relationship between translation and player immersion.

The same can be said about the fan translation communities in video game localization. Mangiron (2018, pp. 130-131) highlights the need for further research on players' reception of fan-localized versions and the officially localized versions of games. According to Mangiron, "this in turn could help developers and publishers to tailor localization strategies, by taking into account the audience, genre, theme and cultural content of a game".

In the context of Türkiye, although valuable, there are very few studies focusing on both video game localization and local fan localization practices. Sarıgül and Jonathan Maurice Ross, (2020) focused on potential similarities and differences between community translation processes in volunteer and professional video game localization in Turkey, in similar fashion with this study. They carried out interviews with members of a volunteer video game localization community and a professional localization company. The findings from the interviews indicated that they resembled one another in terms of management, participation, and closed community structure, yet the volunteer community sometimes displayed more flexibility. Karagöz (2021) focused on indie gaming communities through an Indie Game Localization Facebook page to shed light on the concept of "agency" in online relationships among translators and game developers. Results of his study indicate that online and offline interaction and collaboration is closely tied, and aforementioned groups gather and mutually benefit from interacting through cyberspace. Odacıoğlu (2015) analysed voluntary translation of the game *Wolfenstein: The Old Blood* in terms of translation approaches, as well as user comments regarding to the translation. Interview with the responsible translator working in the project as well. Findings indicate that choices in translation could both increase and decrease the playability of the game by players, but general responses were positive especially with translations including daily speech in Turkish. He also pointed out that volunteer translation acts could increase the games sales and benefit the developers who, as a result, would not need to spend funds for localization. Another study by Canbaz and Öncü Yılmaz (2019) highlights the importance of translation in story-driven video games by analysing the translation of *The Last of Us* through the descriptive approach of Gideon Toury, regarding translators as communication experts. According to their findings, although video games could be analysed under the umbrella of audiovisual translation, their specific norms needed to be researched separately. They underline that Turkish

localization could be beneficial to create a discourse that is relatable to Turkish players, and translators to be more involved in the game development process as communication experts.

These studies each make important contributions, but in the literature, it is apparent that more studies focusing on the process, different strategies, and immersion are needed in the Turkish context. Fan localizations of video games that lack official localization support in Turkish can present a solid case for the need for Turkish localization in more games and genres. The study on these communities would also be beneficial for professionals, as well, since these fans stem from gaming communities themselves and reflect their own expectations from a localized game to their own work. This study is a contribution to the literature, both highlighting the need for more studies and diverse approaches to video game localization research.

1.4 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

As mentioned above, analysing video game localization can shed light on communities, practices, translation strategies, and the narrative of video games, as well as different genres of video games. This study, however, will be limited to a single video game of the role-playing genre, its translation in English-Turkish language pair, two specific groups of translators, fans and professionals, and the relationship between localization and immersion. This limitation helps focusing on differences between two different groups of translators, fans and professionals, and the concept of immersion. However, studies centring around different genres, groups, players and locales could definitely benefit the academia.

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The aim of this chapter is to provide information about the concepts related to the study such as immersion, video game localization and video games.

2.1 A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO VIDEO GAME STUDIES

Video games can be defined as interactive media in which players experience different situations, stories, and virtual realities. Video games have multiple dimensions, such as graphics, mechanics, music, and storytelling. By utilizing these dimensions, developers aim to “immerse” the players within virtual worlds.

It can be argued that research in video games is divided into two groups: Ludologists and narratologists. This division reflects on how video games are defined and analysed in academia as well. Ludologists approach video games more “mechanically”. Aarseth (2023, p. 257) defines critical ludology as “an approach to video games that is sceptical of the attempted marriages between game design and storytelling”. Juul (1999), one of the most prominent ludologists of the field, argues that computer games and the narrative share some traits - both are temporal, for example - but apart from that are radically different. Narratologists, on the other hand, highlighted video games as interactive storytelling mediums. Arsenault (2014, p. 593) states that the most common research conducted on narrative content in games has focused on the narrative structures of games to identify the repeating ways in which interactivity can result in narrativity. These two different groups of schools of thought make it difficult to provide an ultimate definition of “video games”. But these different approaches and definitions also highlight the complex nature of video games themselves by focusing on different aspects of video games: Games as a system that puts playability and design above the story, and games as a new and interactive medium of storytelling that uses playability and game design for narrative purposes.

2.1.1. Video Game Genres

The topic of genre is also a heated source of discussion among video game researchers. Although there are a number of defined and established genres among gamers, a general consensus in academia is yet to be achieved. Apperley (2006, p. 8) claims that "the established genres of video games, while being substantially different from literary or filmic genres, still emphasize representation over any notion of interactivity". Clarke et al. (2017, p. 2), state that games have such a high degree of novel complexity that contemporary video game genre labels and classification systems can't capture it. They argue ongoing trend for developers to follow established genres in practical game development could result in the cultural maturation of video games, as well as to the maturation of video game genre labels, perhaps even the field of game studies. Genre studies are also an important aspect for the research on VGL in translation studies. According to O'Hagan & Mangiron (2013), knowledge of specific necessities of video game genres can help translators to find appropriate translation strategies that could minimize translation errors, which in return, could affect player experience in a positive fashion.

On Steam, the largest PC gaming market and social platform, some of the game genres are as follows:

Action: According to Arsenault (2014, p. 295), "the defining factor of 'action' games appears to be the importance of the player's sensory-motor skills in performing the various actions needed to progress through the game's challenges". Exciting and energizing, action games put players into different "action-packed" situations to adapt and overcome. An example of this genre is Call of Duty series, a first-person shooter in which the player takes the role of a soldier in fictional war scenarios and overcomes combat challenges through a variety of arsenal such as guns and bombs.

Indie: Indie games are video games developed and/or by independent developers with generally limited budgets and with a relatively small group of people. This classification is based on the scope of the development conditions themselves rather than the content of the games. Bastion, the source material of this thesis, which will be further explained in next chapters, is also an indie game in terms of development scope.

MMORPG: Massively multiplayer online role-playing games, also known as MMORPGS, are games in which a large number of players play online at the same time. These games provide a basis for player interaction in which players form groups, communicate and strategize together as they progress through the game's story and overcome challenges. World of Warcraft is an example of this genre, in which multiple players gather in online factions, create their own characters and progress through the story and challenges altogether through teamwork.

Adventure: Adventure games are narrative-driven games in which players solve puzzles or mysteries as they progress through the story. Monkey Island, in which the main character progresses through challenges and puzzles in a fictional island to become a pirate, is an example of this genre.

Role-Playing Game (RPG): Originating from tabletop role-playing games such as Dungeons & Dragons, RPG is a genre in which players make their own choices throughout the narration of the game and build upon their characters' skills as they please. A prominent example of this genre is The Elder Scrolls series, in which the players create their own characters by selecting among fantasy races such as elves and dwarves in a fictional, fantastic world, navigate in the world and progress through the story according to their own choices.

Simulation: Simulation games "simulate" different situations such as farming, piloting, and driving. These experiences may tend to be very faithful to their real-world counterparts. Microsoft Flight Simulator is an example of this genre where players fly aircrafts that are created faithfully to their real-world counterparts in real-world routes and real-world airports.

Sports: Sports games enable players to experience sports like football, racing, and basketball in the likeness of the real world with rules, competitors, and even virtual audiences. FIFA series is an example of this genre where players play virtual football with real-life rules in real-life stadiums.

Strategy: Strategy games are games in which players have to develop tactics to overcome challenges. They may have military and survival settings. Age of Empires series in which

players take control of different civilizations such as Britons, Mayans and Ottomans, and strategize to defeat the rival civilizations is an example.

The source text chosen for this study is an indie RPG. Chandler and Deming (2011) highlight the relationship between narrative and localization through RPGs. These games have a large volume of texts for translation which rely on character dialogue, cutscenes, books, and notes found in-game to tell the story. A wide range of text types, from literary to technical, with the use of literary narrative devices, legal text, and contemporary dialogue scripts full of street-speak, can be present within one fictional game world. Since RPGs are closely tied to the literary genre of fantasy (Apperley, 2006), their structure and characters are heavily narrative oriented

Another important aspect of RPGs is the method of narrative progression. Generally, narrative driven game genres such as action and adventure put players in different situations in which they have to adapt, overcome and interact. These games have prewritten stories, and according to some researchers, them being prewritten could somewhat restrict the players in their control of the development of the game story (Heibach, 1999). However, unlike other genres, RPGs encourage and even force players to make in-game choices and control the narrative aspects. These choices could range from going to a specific location in a specific manner (e.g. by sea or air), selecting responses that result in different reactions from non-playable characters in the virtual universe as they talk (e.g. friendly, aggressive or neutral responses), and completing in-game missions differently (e.g. in dangerous zones with enemy characters, choosing between fighting with enemies or remaining stealthy and unseen).

Games, as mentioned, are inherently interactive multimedia in which players take control in several situations. Whether their narratives are controllable or not, players experience a fictional situation or a universe interactively one way or another. So, it would be incorrect to state that other genres with narrative elements are inferior to RPGs just because their narratives are uncontrollable unlike RPGs. Studies on other video game genres are equally valuable and needed without a doubt since they could shed light on different player experiences, genre-specific game design choices, and localization aspects. However, in terms of this study, it can be argued that RPGs are more suitable for

analysing the relationship between localized narratives and immersion, which will be further explained.

2.1.2 Immersion in Game Studies

Studies on immersion take root from the concept of flow: A term that was proposed by psychologist Csikszentmihalyi (1990). In the state of flow, a situation Csikszentmihalyi defines as “optimal experience” is achieved, in which a person feels a great sense of joy and absorption after an accomplishment or participation to an activity. The said activity could be related to art, sports, literature, anything that makes a person rewarded after involvement, regardless of the act being mental or physical. This mental phenomenon has been studied by other researchers with focus on different fields as well. For example, Chilton (2013) claims that art therapists could benefit from this concept by helping individuals in art therapy to enter and maintain a state of flow. They state that achievement of flow would result in an increase of creativity and sense of fulfilment after therapy. Farsi & Dehnad (2016) focuses on how state of flow could be achieved by readers through literary narrative devices and proposes that the concept of flow could be used for literature analysis. In their study on the interaction between human and information technologies, Agarwal & Karahanna (2000) approaches the concept of flow as “cognitive absorption,” and describe this condition as a feeling in which people feel a deep involvement with software.

In game studies, this feeling of absorption and involvement is presented as “immersion”, which is also the focal point of this thesis. Murray (2017) draws a similarity between this concept and being submerged in water. According to her, immersion is a mental condition in which an individual is surrounded by a different, virtual reality that demands full attention, as if surrounded by a body of water. Ermi and Mäyrä (2005) define immersion as " becoming physically or virtually a part of the experience itself". They also point out that video games are interactive by nature and require active participation of the player to the game itself, so they state a different form of flow is achieved through gameplay experience. Another definition by Cairns et al. (2014) also point out to this aspect of immersion as well by defining it as the engagement or involvement a person feels as a

result of playing a digital game. As a main component of the game creation process, immersion is arguably the most fundamental effect that developers aim to achieve. Regardless of definitional arguments in video game researchers, video games are inherently interactive media in which players experience a virtual domain. This virtual domain has multiple dimensions such as control schematics, music, graphics, and storytelling, all of which requiring attention separately and affect immersion.

Although there are many definitions on what immersion is, how immersion is achieved is a topic of discussion among scholars. Findings of Witmer & Singer (1998) indicate that immersion is related to the feeling of being present in a virtual environment. Radford (2000) states that games are visually stimulating, walking among building masses or being in spaces but associates this immersive visual stimulation with gameplay and player's ability to step into a game world through controls. McMahan (2003) also defines visual elements are crucial to create a sense of immersion since they present the defining conventions of the fictional worlds, but notes that narrative is equally important in for introduction these conventions and could help the user align their expectations with the logic of the world, thus achieving immersion.

Through interviews with players, Brown & Cairns (2004) claim that there are three stages of how the sense of immersion is achieved:

- 1) Engagement: Achieved through a gamer spending time and effort playing a game. If engagement fails, meaning, if a games' genre or controls does not resonate with players' expectations and preferences, players will not put effort for experiencing a game.
- 2) Engrossment: Achieved through directly affecting gamers in an emotional manner. This effect could be caused by visuals, in-game tasks, stories and characters. Some players participants to their study claimed that in this stage, they stop considering the unrealistic visual aspects of the game and the game's world as fictional.

- 3) Total Immersion: Achieved when the only thing players think about is the game itself. They develop empathy for the characters. This feeling is created through graphics, plot and sounds combined

Results of the study carried out by Jennett et al. (2008) indicate that once the immersion has been achieved, the barrier of access, which is affected by interest and investment of the players and usability of controls, has been reduced. This resulted in less proficient players not being overwhelmed by difficult controls and more advanced players would not be bored by over-simplicity. According to the results of their study, the situations which may result in players being dissatisfied with a game, meaning, affecting their degree of engagement, could very well be resolved by narratively immersing them into the fictional world by making them feel as a part of the game.

Morgado and Beck (2020) also point out the relationship between immersion and narrative, by defining narrative immersion as the sensation of being inside a story, fully engaged, and accepting the world and events of the narrative as real. In order to achieve narrative immersion, a stimulating plot, compelling characters, and dramatic situations to keep the players engaged are needed (Cesário et al., 2023).

However, according to the findings of a study by Sweetser & Johnson (2004), even in game genres that have little-to-none narrative elements such as strategy games, proven to benefit the level of immersion. Naul and Liu (2020) also state that a strong narrative would make an impact on player experience. Design features such as integrated fantasies, empathetic characters and virtual agents, and personalized narratives existing in narrative-oriented video game genres such as RPGs were all shown to be potentially powerful storytelling features, which, as a result, contribute to the immersion levels

2.2. VIDEO GAME LOCALIZATION IN TRANSLATION STUDIES

Video game localisation can be defined as the process of adapting a game technically, linguistically and culturally in order to market it in different territories (Mangiron, 2017). As a concept developing along with world wide web (www), information technologies and associated concepts such as internet, media and software, localization has deep ties

with internationalization. Chandler & Deming (2011) define internationalization as the process in which aspects of a product is adapted in accordance with the target language's standards. These standards may include user interface, date formats and changes for languages that are read from left to right and right to left, in short, anything that affect the usability of a software by the target user. Video game localization, however, is the translation of the game assets in order to reach international market. These assets may range from in-game text, also known as on-screen text (e.g. menus, tutorial messages, weapon, character and ability descriptions) to system messages (e.g. error and confirmation messages produced by the operating software after running the game software) (Chandler & Deming, 2011, pp. 144-145).

Figure 1. An example of on-screen texts from source material of this thesis, Bastion.



It is also one of the fastest rising topics in translation studies. According to Mangiron (2017), first research on the topic were carried out by not scholars, but translators who work in industry with merely six academic papers on VGL were released in 2006. At this point, the general term of localization was a topic of discussion among translation scholars, who deny its ties with translation studies and consider it as a separate field called

“localization studies,” that is closer to communication and information technologies than translation studies (Achkasov, 2016). These issues were also pointed out by O’Hagan & Mangiron (2013), who urgently called translation scholars for action to close the existing gap between industry and academia and address the issues related to the conceptualization of localization and translation. Researchers like Pym (2014), Nauert (2007) and Sin-Wai (2012) pointed out these discussions this new practice as well, and defined it as actually “translation in broader sense” which involves “multimedia integration and hypertext”.

In recent years, both localization and video game localization have turned out to be one of the established topics in translation studies with more research, congress and journals dedicated to this field (Mangiron, 2017). VGL and its recognition as a specialized translation practice requiring technical, cultural and business considerations specific to games and video game industry (O’Hagan & Chandler, 2016); and translator’s role in ensuring players are properly engaged has been recognized as well. Through the analysis of VGL, topics such as gender, crowdsourcing and cultural engagement, can be analysed and researched.

As stated previously, video game localization practice has strong ties with software localization since both fields involve combining language translation and software engineering, where translated text strings need to be appropriately placed within software to that it could work without any usability issues (O’Hagan, 2006). A huge difference is that although games localization shares similar aspects with software localization, game this functionality must be achieved with a high degree of creativity and originality, with fun and playfulness. Since video games are interactive and affective by nature as a medium, and their ultimate objective is providing an immersive and entertaining experience, creating a successful localisation means capturing the cultural aspects as well as linguistic and technical aspects (Mangiron, 2016).

Another aspect of VGL, which sets it apart than other types of translation, is the audiovisual elements involved. Audiovisual translation is the practices, processes and products that are involved in the transfer of multimodal and multimedial content across languages and/or cultures (Perez-Gonzalez, 2020). Video games belong to interactive publishing which characterizes that differs from other types of software products. They contain multimedia elements such as image, text, sound and voice, which all become

subject to the localization process. This results in games localization to combine software localization with features of screen translation through subtitling and dubbing (O'Hagan & Mangiron, 2004).

Bernal Merino (2014) defines audiovisual products such as movies, comic books and video games as multichannel texts, in which linguistic information works in sync with the acoustic and visual information that make up the product. These semiotic systems are creatively combined to achieve a somehow illuminating or even cathartic communication experience with the audiences of the product. Mangiron (2022) states that in traditional media such as movies, the interactivity is limited to the cognitive processes that take place in the receiver's mind and functional activities like controlling the volume or toggling subtitles. However, in video games interactivity is a basic feature in which the user constantly has to respond to the input they receive by making certain choices, selecting certain elements and interacting with them in order to progress.

Because of its complex nature, there are certain capabilities required from localisation specialists to have when it comes to VGL. According to O'Hagan (2007) the translator is expected to convey the game play experience as close as possible to the equivalent of the original in games localization. Unlike other entertainment genres, such as literature, cinema or theatre, modern video games involve multimodal spaces that are technologically constructed through game development process based on software. This renders itself to various adjustments beyond textual components during localization.

Mangiron (2007) claims that games consist of different assets that require several translation skills to localize, depending on the text types associated with them, which are as follows (pp. 311-316):

- 1) Knowledge of general software terminology and specific games platform terminology.
- 2) Familiarity with the specific features of screen translation.
- 3) Mastering natural and idiomatic language.
- 4) Creativity.

- 5) Cultural awareness.
- 6) Familiarity with games culture.
- 7) Familiarity with global pop culture.

Dietz (2007) also sets a list of capabilities for VGL: Computer skills, which will help translators overcome software related problems and play the game (if provided by the developers) to get a clear picture, knowledge of gaming, subject matter expertise related to the game genre, experience in localisation process, and an outlook that is oriented towards gaming industry and project specifics.

These elements clearly identify why video game localization is different from other translation mediums and localized materials. Inherently multimodal and multidimensional materials with their own sub-cultures, which are in the process of turning into pop culture, impacting their reception by the audiences; video games are indeed special source texts for localization specialists. Their genres also impact how localization procedures handled, whether they be narrative oriented games requiring creativity or hyper-realistic simulation games that need to be translated as realistically and technically as possible. Its special situation within translation studies highlights VGL as a research area which needs to be studied and worked on extensively.

2.2.1. Fan Localization in Video Game Localization

The practice of fan localization itself dates back to 1990's, and first studies on video game fan localizations carried out on Japanese to English fan translator communities (O'Hagan & Mangiron, 2013). These fan translators embarked on fan localization projects to provide translations for Japanese games so that English speaking players could experience the said games. Another more interesting motivation is their dissatisfaction with official localizations: These fans felt that they could not experience the games in same way as the native players, since these official localizations often lacked Japanese cultural elements.

These fans, like other fan communities, gather through the courtesy of online communication channels of Web 2.0 (Hetcher, 2012). However, fan localization of video games is different than traditional fansubs, since games are recognized complex technological artefacts, which in part characterizes game fan communities' work (Newman, 2008). According to O'Hagan (2017), the practice of fan translation goes far beyond the passive consumption of games, steps into the realm of creation where fans responded to the linguistic, cultural and technical challenges of game localization. Dovey & Kennedy (2006) considers fans as "co-creators" who consume these digital software products and uses them to make new artefacts, thus, embarking a sort of co-creative relationship with the original authors of the software.

O'Hagan (2015) also defines fan video game localization under the umbrella of "user-generated translation," in which members of the online communities and like-minded people gather to provide translations for media. According to Burn (2014), fan work can both revere the original text, seeking to remain as true to it as possible and dramatically alter the original text at the same time, adapting it to express the particular interest of the fan or fan group.

These alterations and inclination of revering original text affects how players experience fan translated games as well. According to Kohler (2016), these phenomena could be traced to the first years of fan translation activities, when Japanese game fans, particularly in the US began to recognize the interference arising from translation. These translations, which were considered "poor" by the players were often mocked by player communities. However, these players who experienced games through fan translations were relatively forgiving as long as the gameplay was kept intact.

Video game fan translation activities are not solely limited to the game software itself. Chen (2024) focuses on the impact of the relationship between gaming communities through fan activities. According to their findings, Chinese fans of Overwatch, an online competitive game with a vibrant e-sports scene, managed to build a bridge between global and local Overwatch communities by translating social media content from English to Chinese.

Fans generally carry out localization activities through a process called “Rom (Read Only Memory) hacking” in which they delve into game software files to extract source texts, localize them, and add localized target text to software files once again (Esselink, 2002). These fans sometimes be subjected to legal notices by the developers of video games for such activities. The reason for these legal notices is that in fan localization, game texts are not provided to them by developers officially but extracted from the software without any permission. But developers generally ignore these co-creations since they benefit from these fan localizations in a positive manner. That could be related to the fact that they consider fan localizations are more beneficial for the reception of games by audiences than nonexistence of a localization (Mangiron, 2018). Fans being volunteers who work without expecting any financial gain could be considered as another reason, since game development companies do not need to allocate localization budgets in these cases.

Muñoz Sánchez (2015) claims that participating in a romhacking or video game fan localization project can be seen even as an educational aid for those seeking to work in the video game industry, which could be considered as an important motivation for volunteers. These projects are a way for fans to start familiarising themselves with common translation issues in video game localisation, such as text limitations, software variables and other game specific issues.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, the methodological framework, information on participants, inclusion and exclusion criteria and introduction of research materials will be provided.

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

The research methodology is designed to ensure that there are:

- 1) Two separate translations produced by two translator groups that have different experiences in video game localization. The expectation is that they will lean towards different strategies and, as a result, provide different translations of the same source text.
- 2) Two group of players, who define themselves as “gamers” to experience two different translations mentioned above and, hypothetically in relation to that, who will show two different immersion levels.

The inclusion and exclusion criteria of the groups will be explained further in this chapter.

3.2. PARTICIPANTS

3.2.1. Translator Groups (FT vs PT)

The source text has been translated by two groups of anonymous translators: 5 fan translators (FT) and 4 professional translators (PT). The FT group consists of translators who have no prior professional translation experience and have at least 3 months of video game localization experience (see Table 1). The PT group consists of translators who work with companies or independent and who have at least 1 year of video game localization experience (see Table 2). Despite these experience minimum criteria, fan translators with more than 3 months of experience (under the condition of not having any professional industry experience) and professionals with more than 12 months of

professional industry experience were also admitted to the study. These criteria were confirmed and obtained by the demographics information forms that participants provided at the beginning of the study.

The reason for these inclusion criteria is to create an expert-novice paradigm based on experience, which will directly affect target text produced by both groups. The participants also provided information on whether they play video games, their educational background and their motivations for carrying out professional and fan video game localization. Tables providing information on the demographics of the participants are as follows:

Table 1. Demographic information of the FT group.

Id	Age	Game Experience (Months)	Localization	Gaming Duration Per Week (Hours)	The Department	Graduation	Occupation
FT1	22	3		16-20	English Translation & Interpreting		Student
FT2	22	21		11-15	English Translation & Interpreting		Student
FT3	21	21		1-5	English Translation & Interpreting		Student
FT4	23	4		1-5	English Translation & Interpreting		Student
FT5	21	3		11-15	English Translation & Interpreting		Student

An interesting finding is the fact that FT translators are Translation and Interpreting students, which was not a criterion of participation for this study. They state their motivation for being involved in fan localization is that “Their wish to become

professional VGL specialists after their graduation,”. There are many cases in fan translation communities in which people who are not professionally trained translators but choose to be involved in merely fan translation as a hobby, and motivated by their love for media such as animes, tv shows and games (O’Hagan & Mangiron, 2013). The fan translators participating in this study are both members of the gaming community and, perhaps most importantly translators in training, which could reflect in TT they produced.

Table 2. Demographic information of the PT group.

Id	Age	Game Localization Experience (Months)	Gaming Duration Per Week (Hours)	The Graduation Department	Occupation
PT1	27	40	11-15	English Translation & Interpreting	Localization Project Manager
PT2	25	13	6-10	English Translation & Interpreting	Freelance Localization Specialist
PT3	25	60	6-10	English Translation & Interpreting	Freelance Localization Specialist
PT4	24	12	21-24	French-English Translation & Interpreting	Freelance Localization Specialist

Both FT group and PT group translators defined themselves as “gamers,” and stated that they allocate a specific amount of time to play video games. This is not a surprising finding for both groups. Fan translators around the world are generally motivated by their interest in video games and gaming culture. The same can be said about the PT group, their career choice in VGL industry could be very well related to the fact that they are gamers and spend their time with video games both professionally and as a leisure.

It is also worth noting that 2 of the fan translators have almost 2 years of experience, in contrast to 2 of the professional translators with merely a year of experience. These participants fit into the prerequisites for their respective participations: With fan translators having a minimum of 3 months of voluntary experience and professional translators having a minimum of 1 year of professional experience without any limits on the experience duration. Although fans they carry out video game translation activities voluntarily unlike professionals who work in the industry itself, this could also have an impact on the TT.

3.2.2. Player Groups

For the immersion analysis, two groups consisting of 12 people each were asked to play one of the localized versions of the video game Bastion, which will be further introduced in this chapter, without knowing which one is produced by fan translators, and which one is produced by professionals.

These participants came from a wide variety of backgrounds, ages and genders. The only requirements to participate this stage was defining themselves as “Gamers” and allocating a period of their time to gaming each week and owning a personal computer that can run Bastion without any issues. Demographic information of the participant groups is provided on Table 3.

Table 3. Information on the Player groups.

	Age (Median)	Gaming Duration Per Week (Hours)
PT Player Group	28.33	10.08
FT Player Group	24.67	12.92

The decision to use “being a gamer as the only criteria” is related to the fact that gaming communities in Türkiye and around the globe are, although vast, unified by their interest

for gaming regardless of gender, age, and background; and since they allocate a specific amount of time to gaming, they were no strangers to video game culture and could provide immersion data through their gameplay experience.

3.3. MATERIALS

3.3.1. The Game: Bastion

For this study, Bastion, an RPG-adventure game developed by indie game development company Supergiant Games and originally published in 2011 by Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment has been chosen as the source material.

Figure 2. A screenshot from Bastion showing The Kid at the beginning of a level.



As a game involving heavy fantasy themes, Bastion involves colourful and ever-changing environments in which the player traverses as they progress through the story. Bastion incorporates RPG gameplay with previously mentioned narrative elements of its genre.

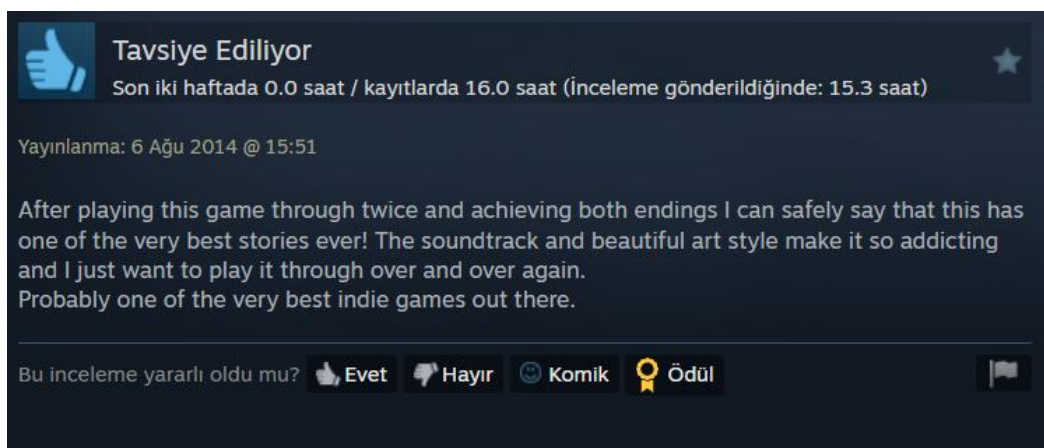
Various weapons and gameplay methods to choose from, characters with narrative arcs and a fictional fantastic universe which pushes players to make choices that are emotionally impactful (as stated by players in Figure 2 and 3), Bastion is a suitable case to analyse both translation choices and immersion.

Bastion received acclaim from both fans and critics, with an 8.3 Metacritic user score and an 86 Metacritic critic score. Its Steam reviews are also “Overwhelmingly Positive,” with 27.462 player reviews (See Figures 3 and 4).

Figure 3. A screenshot from the Bastion Steam page with the review of a player.



Figure 4. A screenshot from the Bastion Steam page with the review of a player.



Another aspect of Bastion is that its short playtime, which is around 5-6 hours. It is also a player friendly game including various difficulty options to choose from, making it an appropriate game for player groups who struggles to find enough time to play games and who prefer games that do not challenge them during gameplay as they experience the narrative.

The player controls "the Kid", the main character of the game. After a devastating event called "The Calamity" struck the land, The Kid undertakes a mission to collect special shards of rock to power the Bastion, a place in which survivors seek shelter, rebuild and carry on.

The characters of the Bastion are Rucks, an old man who is also the game's narrator and the main "quest giver" who mentors the Kid during his mission; Zulf, an ambassador from the Ura people who were at war with Caelondia and whose ideals are challenged throughout the game; and Zia, an orphaned Ura girl who was raised in Caelondia.

After a catastrophic event which left the lands barren and torn, the Kid sets out to find a place called Bastion in which people agreed to go in turbulent times. In Bastion, he meets an old man called Rucks, who is also the narrator and the only character who speaks throughout the game. Rucks informs him about the situation and tells him to find the Cores that powered Caelondia, one of the fictional countries of the game, so that they could rebuild Bastion. During his travels, Kid meets the other characters: Zulf and Zia. Zulf is a citizen and ambassador of Ura, with whom Caelondia was at war, and Zia is a young girl from Ura who was raised at Caelondia.

As he travels, Kid finds a journal which belonged to Zia's father, who worked for Caelondian scientists. Upon reading the journal, our characters find out that the reason for Calamity is a device invented by Caelondians to completely annihilate Ura people to put a definitive end to war, but instead backfired and demolished the world as a whole.

Zulf, in retaliation, breaks the newly built Bastion and escapes to Ura, his people. The Kid works to rebuild the Bastion, but this time the Ura attacks and captures Zia. The Kid heads out to rescue Zia. She tells him that she has left Bastion voluntarily to find out the intentions of Ura. The Kid finally finds Zulf as well, who was beaten and betrayed by his own people since they thought that he led the Kid to their base. There comes the first

player choice of Bastion: the Kid may choose to leave Zulf in Ura base or drop his weapon to carry him back to the Bastion.

In Bastion, Rucks and Zia, who speaks in the game for the very first time, give the Kid the final choice of the game: He could rewind time before the Calamity using the Bastion, with the hopes of people could somehow prevent the Calamity this time and save everyone, Ura and Caelondian alike, or evacuate with the current roster of survivors to start anew as a group themselves.

3.3.2. Translation Techniques Framework

In *Translation Techniques Revisited: A Dynamic and Functionalist Approach*, Molina and Hurtado Albir (2004) discuss and criticize various well-established translation analysis methodologies designed by researchers such as Vinay & Darbelnet (1995), Newmark (1988) and Nida (1964). They discuss the conflicting definitions of strategies and techniques, and similarities existing in the frameworks of previous researchers.

According to Molina and Albir (2004), the previous proposals create a definitional confusion on two terms: Translation strategy, which is the global choice that affects the translation process as a whole, and translation techniques, which are prevalent in smaller sections of the translation and affect the result. Strategies are essential element in problem solving related to the text in general, whereas techniques are result-focused and be used to classify different types of translation solutions.

Molina and Hurtado Albir state that translators refer to strategies when there is a difficulty in the translation process or there is a problem resulting from their own lack of knowledge. These strategies can be consciously and unconsciously used by the translator depending on the contextual elements and purpose of the source text, in order to solve problems while translating. Translation techniques, however, are the solutions that emerge from the translation strategies. In short, they define strategies as a part of the process, and techniques as the result.

Another criticism they have on previous framework proposals is the concept of translation equivalence. They claim that in addition to definitional problems aforementioned,

previous proposals on translation techniques fail to capture the importance of translation equivalence, and this deficiency makes it hard to analyse and classify techniques that affect the translated product and equivalence.

For this end, they propose their own classification of translation techniques. The reason for using their framework for translation analysis is that their proposal being focused on both techniques that have direct results in product, and equivalence itself. Its coverage of wide range of techniques could also highlight context dependent approaches, what is preferred by the translators and what is not in terms of localization of an RPG video game.

Molina and Hurtado Albir's techniques are as follows (see Table 4):

Table 4. Translation Techniques Proposed by Molina and Hurtado Albir in "Translation Techniques Revisited: A Dynamic and Functionalist Approach" (2004).

Adaptation	Replacing a ST cultural element with another from the target culture.
Amplification	Introducing details that are not formulated in the ST.
Borrowing	Taking a word or expression directly from another language.
Calque	A literal translation of a foreign word or phrase either lexical or structural.
Compensation	Introducing a ST element of information or stylistic effect in another place in the TT
Description	Replacing a term or expression with a description of its form or/and function.
Discursive creation	Establishing an equivalence that is totally unpredictable out of context.

Established equivalent	Using a term or expression recognized as an equivalent in the TL.
Generalization	Using a general or neutral term.
Linguistic amplification	Adding linguistic elements.
Linguistic compression	Synthesizing linguistic elements in the TT.
Literal translation	Translating a word or an expression word for word.
Modulation	Changing the point of view or cognitive category in relation to the ST.
Particularization	Using a more precise term.
Reduction	Suppressing a ST information item in the TT.
Substitution	Changing linguistic elements as intonations, gestures, or vice versa.
Transposition	Changing a grammatical category.
Variation	Changing textual tone, style, social dialect, and geographical dialect.

3.3.3. Immersion Scale

In their study, Qin et al. (2009) points out that video games, unlike traditional media like movies and novels, have their own characteristics such as interactivity, which enables players to interact with stories, and players have to progress through the games themselves to experience the narrative. They differ significantly from traditional media in terms of structure and presentation style of stories. As a result, the players' experience of immersing themselves within the narrative needs to be evaluated separately.

For this purpose, they developed “A Questionnaire of Player Immersion in Computer Game Narrative” using seven dimensions to highlight the relationship between immersion and narrative. For this study, this scale is chosen thanks to its focus on interactive narrative elements of video games, which are widely used in RPGs.

The dimensions are:

- Curiosity: Arousal of senses and cognition and attraction to explore game narrative.
- Concentration: Ability to concentrate long-term on the game narrative.
- Challenge and skills: Some relative difficulty in the game narrative for players and corresponding players’ skills.
- Control: Ability to exercise a sense of control over game narrative.
- Comprehension: Understanding the structure and content of the storyline.
- Empathy: Mentally entering into the imaginary game world while playing the game.
- Familiarity: Being familiar with the game story.

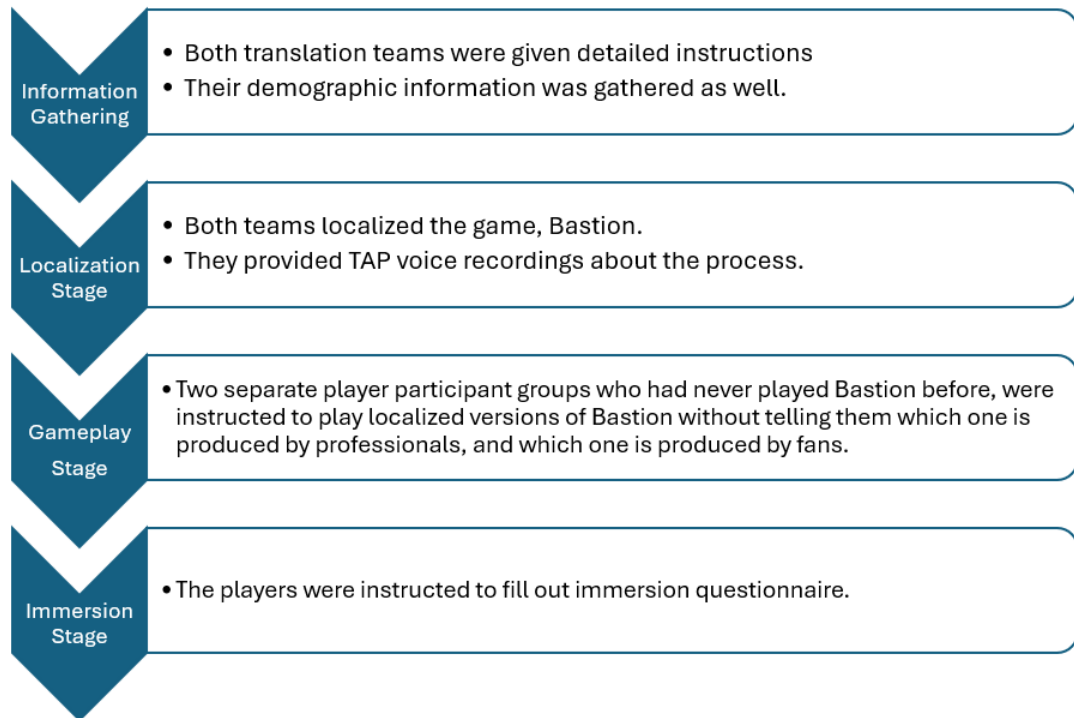
3.4. DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

The study consists of two basic stages as follows (see Figure 5):

- 1) For the first stage, both translation teams were given detailed instructions about what they were expected to do, the nature of the study and file deliveries. Their demographic information was gathered as well. After that, they began their process. When translations were done, they sent TTs, as well as Think Aloud Protocol voice recordings individually about their experience during the translation.
- 2) Two separate player participant groups who had never played Bastion before, were instructed to play localized versions of Bastion. Their demographic information was gathered and detailed instructions on what they were expected to do were given. After they had completed the game, they were instructed to fill “A Questionnaire of Player Immersion in Computer Game Narrative” by Hua

Qin et al. (2009) to identify whether different localizations with different approaches influenced player immersion.

Figure 5. The flow chart of the data gathering procedure.



Before the study, demographic and professional information of every participant was gathered to ensure that they were fit for the study. Afterwards, groups were informed about the structure of the study and the tasks they needed to complete. Participants agreed to comply study necessities and gave their written consent.

Both groups were provided with a document containing information about the game. However, this information was very limited, including the general summary of the game, general introductions to the characters, a screenshot of the main menu and an in-game screenshot. Plus, they were prohibited from using any materials about the game online, like wiki pages and gameplay videos. This decision was taken to simulate a situation called “blind localization” (Dietz, 2007), in which developers provide as little information

as possible to the localization specialists for the sake of confidentiality. The reason is to ensure that there are differences on the approaches to TT while localizing “blindly” by professionals and fans.

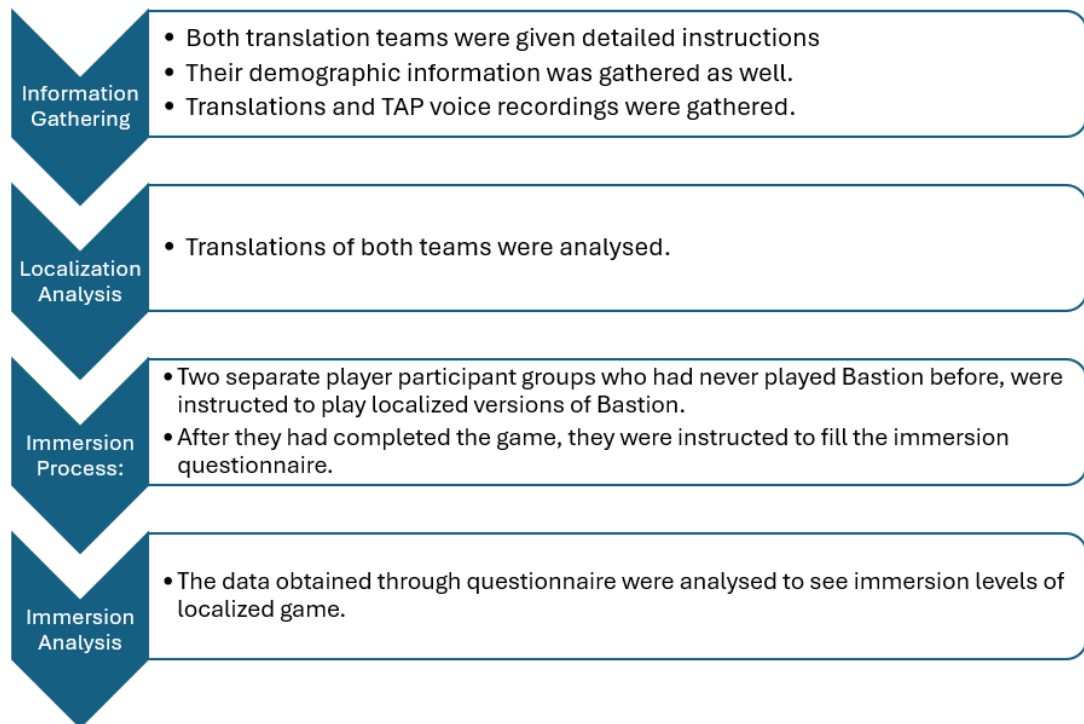
Both groups translated Bastion on their own personal computers, worked with their own planning schemes and used their choice of Computer Assisted Translation tools and Quality Assurance Management tools. Additionally, groups were also guided to use Think Aloud Protocols while translating ST to further analyse the reasons behind their translation choices. They were also given TAP and file delivery instructions so that the data obtained for the research could be suitable for analysis.

Afterwards, two groups of volunteer gamers consisting of 12 participants each who have not played Bastion previously, played two TTs produced. Then, players were asked to fill out “A Questionnaire of Player Immersion in Computer Game Narrative” by Hua Qin et al. (2009) to analyse the level of immersion they experienced during their play.

3.5. DATA ANALYSIS

Since the study has multiple data both qualitative and quantitative like TAP voice recordings, translations and questionnaire results, data analysis has been carried out through multiple stages in accordance with types of data (see Figure 6).

Figure 6. The flow chart of the data analysis procedure.



For the initial analysis, translations of both teams were analysed in accordance with techniques stated above, and their tendency to use different techniques deriving from their experiences in localization was highlighted.

In addition to translations, their demographic information and backgrounds provided at the beginning of the study, comments on TAP voice recordings and software they used during the translation process are gathered to highlight differences between volunteers and professionals. These differences were analysed in five groups: Roles, tools, challenges, solutions and general approach towards the process.

After the translations were analysed, the player group participants played one of the localized versions of Bastion. Then, they filled the questionnaire provided. The data obtained through questionnaires were analysed in R by using T-Test.

For the data analysis, both qualitative and quantitative analyses were used for different stages. TAP voice recordings were transcribed and categorized as mentioned above,

translation techniques were analysed and categorized in accordance with Molina and Hurtado Albir's framework, and immersion scale data through R (R Core Team, 2023).

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, results of the analysis are presented and discussed. Qualitative and quantitative data obtained from translator and player participants are provided in their own respective sections.

4.1. TRANSLATION PROCESSES: TEAM STRUCTURE, TOOLS AND WORKFLOW

For the initial analysis of TAP voice recordings, the findings were separated into five categories. (see Table 5).

Table 5. Analysis of Process

	Professionals	Fans
Roles	Project Manager, Reviewer, Q&A Specialist, Proofreader and Translator	Project Manager, Editor, and Translator
Tools	Trados, Smartcat, Xbench	Google Sheets
Challenges	Challenged by CAT Tool software, “Blindfold” and some terminological elements.	Challenged by “Blindfold,” wordplays, texts require creativity, plus the technical game localization terminology.
Solutions	Brainstorming as a team to figure out characters and storylines, getting help to solve software issues.	Brainstorming as a team to figure out characters and storylines.

General Approach	Providing a TT that is both natural, quirky and poetic, using old words when necessary.	Providing a TT as natural as possible.
------------------	---	--

Surprisingly, in terms of process, professionals and fans worked in a very similar pattern. Through the analysis of TAP recordings, it's observed that both teams started by defining roles and what kind of spelling conventions. After that, they distributed the roles within the team accordingly. The fan translators were translation and interpreting students all of whom, as they stated by them, aimed to become professional video game localization specialists after they graduated. According to their statements at the beginning of the process, they provide fan translations so that they could improve their professional skills. These role distributions could be a result of their knowledge of industry roles which they wish to specialize in after their graduation.

"I think we had a pretty structured workflow in this project. My role was merely translating the texts I was assigned. Other than that, we had a terminology manager. FT-2 handled the project management. The only task I had was to translate and to add terminology items if they were not already included in our term base." (FT-3, see Appendix 4)

"...PT-4 integrated all text files to Trados, checked their wordcounts and separated them into four groups with similar wordcounts. We took on these groups through a draw. Then, we had another draw to determine our roles. We made sure that same person would not carry out editing, proofreading and translating process on the same file. In short, we wanted the texts to be worked on by three people: Translator, editor and post editor." (PT-1, see Appendix 5)

The biggest difference in the roles was that there were “Proofreaders” and “Q&A Specialist” in the PT group. The addition of QA process in the workflow can also be observed on the software tools teams used. While the professional teams used Trados to some extent and Smartcat, an online CAT tool which has internal Q&A, terminology and translation memory functionalities as well as a dedicated QA tool, Xbench; the fan translators opted to use Google Sheets. They used different pages on the same Google Sheets document for terminology management and translation, saying that “It helped them to work collaboratively and see each other’s translations.” This practice is an inherent functionality of CAT tools, which enable translators to see other peoples’ translations through their translation memory and term base management panels. In this case, Google Sheets turned out to be a solution to overcome working collaboratively without cloud based CAT Tools. Their choice of not to use a free CAT Tools like Smartcat could be a result of fan translators not being familiar with software widely used by professionals.

“Google Sheets ensured that we could work on the same document at the same time. Since it had categorizing and creating user specific sections tools, we could see which parts we were to translate and how far other translators had progressed.”

(FT-5, see Appendix 4)

A struggle which was not experienced by the fan translators was the text file limitations of CAT Tools. For the translation, both groups were provided with .xlsx files and an .xml file containing game texts. Although professional translators decided to work on Trados initially, they realized that Trados could not read files properly, showing documents without any text. This caused some confusion in their workflow as well, and they had to get help from online resources and friends working in software fields.

“After we finished the translations for the files we took on, we realized that we had missed a document with 17.000 wordcount since Trados showed empty segments. Apparently, it could not read that document. We changed the file type as xlif, then

added it to Smartcat since Trados did not work. I talked to my software engineer friends for help, and checked GitHub myself to see if I could find any solutions on my own. The software on GitHub did not work either, since they were old and unsupported, and did not get any updates since ages.” (PT-2, see Appendix 5)

In professional localization process, file preparation procedures are actually carried out by localization engineers, who are tasked with turning source files into translatable assets that are usable with CAT software, and making sure that the translated assets work properly on source software (Esselink, 2002). Fan translators handle this file preparation process through “Rom hacking,” which was explained on Chapter 2. Since text files were prepared and provided by the researcher, this process was expected to be skipped by both teams. However, since their preferred CAT tools were incompatible with provided document types, professional translators needed add another workflow to their process. Because of the fact that they did not have previous experience on localization engineering and file preparation, professionals had to come up with solutions. They stated that although they enjoyed the translation process, these issues was their main source of struggle.

“Some of us became experts on the topic (localization engineering) in one night even though they did not have previous experience to save the project. It was a little bit chaotic process for us, but we had fun.” (PT-5, see Appendix 5)

In the process itself, both teams struggled with blindfold localization concept, and resort in brainstorming and discussing with each other to find possible solutions for situations lacking context. Fan translators also stated that they struggled with wordplays within the game universe, whereas professionals said that they had the most fun while creating new words in this part. Through TAP recordings, it’s observed that professional translators could understand the game flow and story more easily since they worked on various

similar projects professionally, and benefited from their expertise while localizing the source text.

“Especially there was one part including wordplays in which we had to translate some sort of a tongue-twister for each initial letter of important words in game universe. It was hard to keep them same in Turkish as its original English text and keeping their descriptions. Finding solutions for words that start with Q and W letters, which are non-existent in Turkish alphabet was also tough.” (FT-5, see Appendix 4)

A fan translator also mentioned that since they preferred to play games in English, they were confused on how to translate some texts and whether they had an established translation in Turkish as well.

“Since I played all video games I played in English, I was familiar with them in English but I did not know how to translate them to Turkish. Some terminologies were established and existed in many games. I had to check other localized games to figure out them.” (FT-3, see Appendix 4)

The general approach of both teams was “To create a TT that flows naturally.” Professionals also stated that they focused on creating a text that is “Quirky, fun and fitting to fantastic universe of the game,” and since they realized that the game has a single narrator, create more poetic translations with old words and inverted sentences. Fan translators also aimed to provide a fun text, but since they felt the effects of blindfold more heavily, they worked on the project with lesser confidence than professionals. This is an expected result, since blindfolded localization is a concept encountered by professionals, who work with heavy NDA limitations on a daily basis. Because of high

confidentiality of unreleased video games, their localizations are also carried out with little to no context in most cases. Professionals, having know-how and hands on experience, are more familiar with methods of overcoming this challenge. Fan translators, on the other hand, still managed to identify this issue and overcome as the process continued and they figured out more context through files.

“I like using old words in my translations especially if it is necessary to represent the game correctly. I think Bastion was a suitable game for these kinds of choices. It has a fun approach, but there is a calamity after all, and there were many mentions on remnants of the old world. The mentions of old gods and temples made me understand that this was a fantastic universe” (PT-2, see Appendix 5)

“As we translated, we thought “How this text will feel natural for a Turkish player?” Ensuring this natural flow was our primary goal. When we failed to do so, we opted to force ourselves to get this natural feeling rather than taking it away from the game.” (FT-4, see Appendix 4)

4.2. COMPERATIVE TECHNIQUE USE: FT VS. PT

For this stage, TTs provided by both groups were analysed separately and tagged in accordance with the translation techniques framework mentioned in previous chapter. The texts that translator groups localised consisted of different types of text ranging from character names to weapon names and dialogue subtitles. Examples of these texts are provided below (see Table 6.):

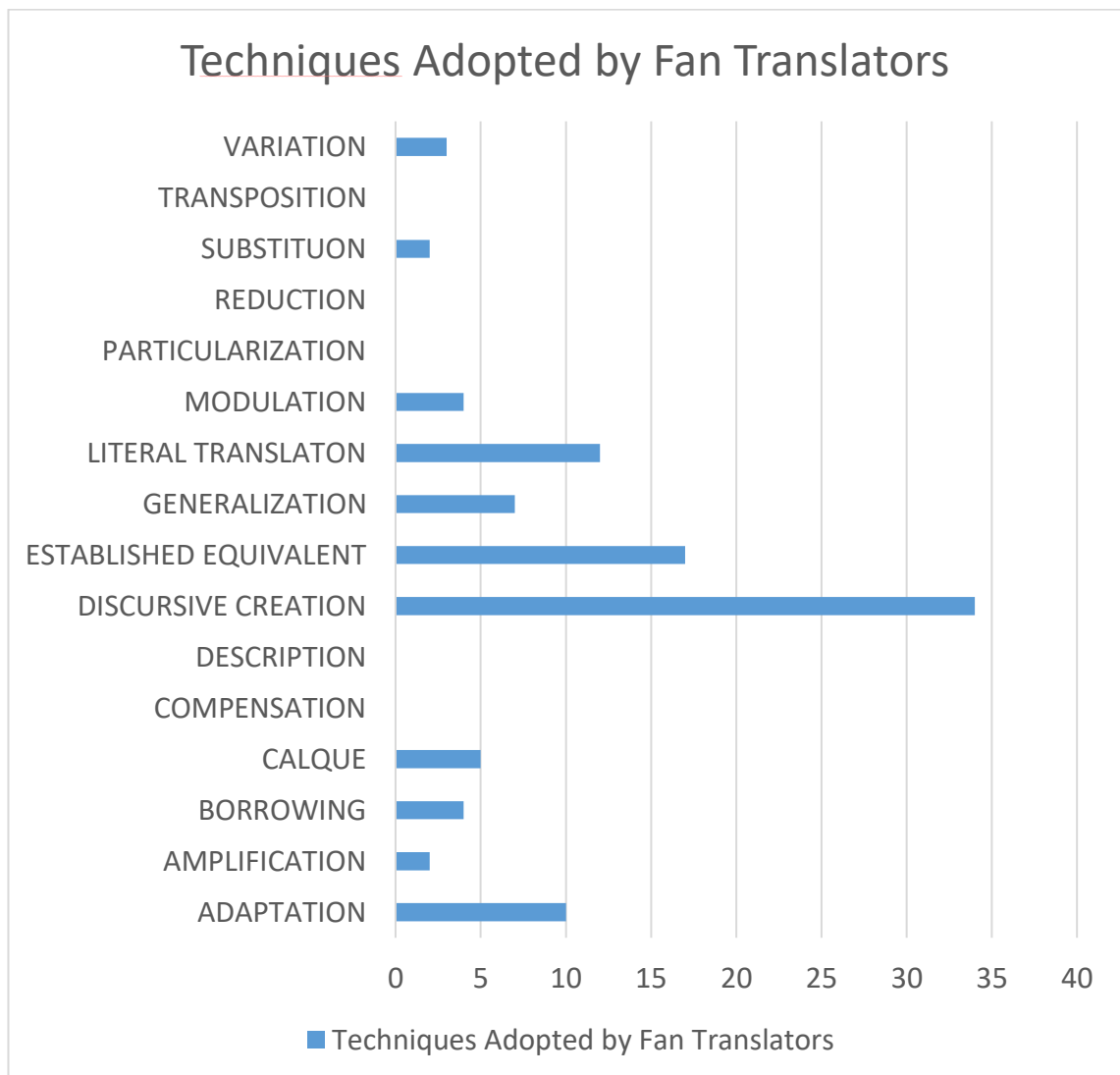
Table 6. Examples from Localisations.

	Source Text	PT Target Text	FT Target Text
Character Names	- Kid - Rucks - Zia	- Çocuk - Rucks - Zia	- Kid - Rucks - Zia
Locations	- Rippling Walls - Wild Unknown - The Bastion	- Dalgalı Surlar - Yaban Eller - Son Kale	- Dalga Sur - Gizemli Yabanlar - Hisar
Weapons	- Fang Repeater - Scrap Musket - Battering Ram	- Dişli Mükerrer Atışlı - Hurda Tüfek - Yıkıcı Koçbaşı	- Ölümcül Fırlatıcı - Hurda Tüfek - Yıkım Balyozu
Items	- Lifewine - Mender Mead - Bull Brandy	- Cansuyu - Lokman Likörü - Boğadeviren	- Can Şarabı - Tamirci Şarabı - Boynuz Konyağı
Enemy Names	- Breaker - Gasfella - Stinkeye	- Ezici - Gazcan - Leşgöz	- Bozguncu - Gazadam - Leşgöz
Dialogues	- To make matters worse, seems the Ura took the girl. - Well it's not the Kid's nature to just roll over and let the inevitable have its way.	- Daha da kötüsü, görünüşe göre Ura halkı kızı kaçırmıştı. - Çocuk, kaçınılmaz görünen bir şey söz konusu olduğunda elini eteğini çekecek biri değildi.	- Her şey yeterince kötü değilmiş gibi Uralar kızı götürdü. - Kid kenara çekilip ne olacaksa olmasına müsaade edecek birisi değil.

	- One thing's for sure. The Ura can't be happy that the Kid followed Zulf all the way home.	- Yine de kesin olan tek bir şey var. Ura halkı, Çocuğun Zulfu evine kadar takip etmesinden hiç hoşnut kalmayacak.	- Kesin olan tek bir şey var. Uralar, Kid'in Zulfu eve kadar takip etmesinden hoşnut olmazlar.
--	---	--	--

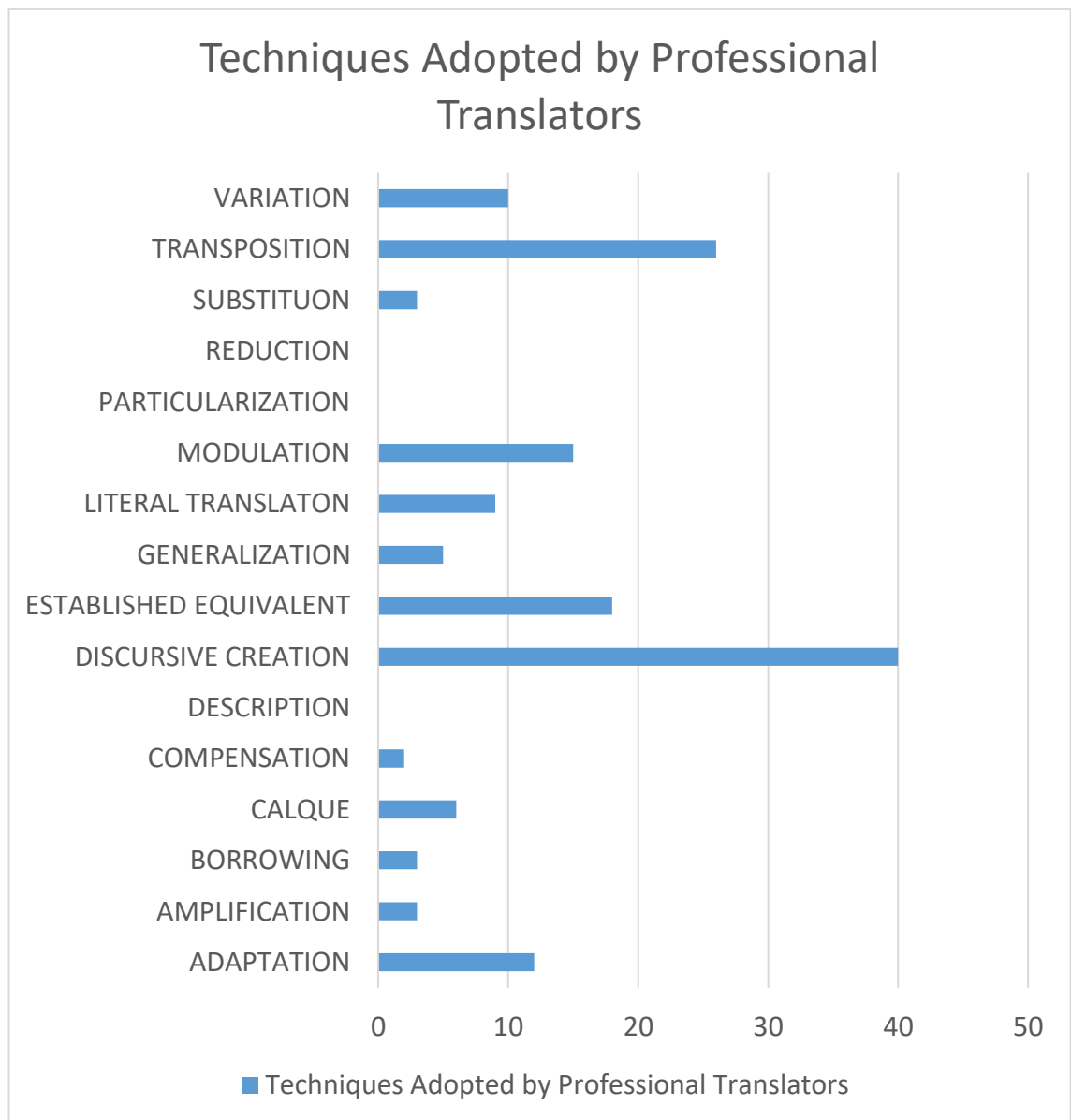
Afterwards, technique counts were placed on tables separately to observe differences in technique use (see Figure 7 and Figure 8).

Figure 7. Techniques Adopted by FTs.



In FT table, it is observed that fans leaned towards discursive creation techniques heavily, with more than 30 instances of use. This technique is followed by established equivalent, literal translation and adaptation. Their results are compatible with their TAP statements, as they defined their purpose as a creating a text that feels as if originally written in Turkish. It is also observed that they leant slightly towards literal translation, tried to use already established terms in Turkish when available and avoided changing sentence structures in some cases.

Figure 8. Techniques Adopted by PTs.



PT tam also leant towards discursive creation the most with 40 instances of the technique, followed by transposition, established equivalent, modulation and adaptation. Their results are also compatible with their TAP recordings. The only significant difference is that, as stated by their TAP recordings, feeling more comfortable with recreating and rewriting the text.

The initial expectation before the study was that we would obtain two TTs with different approaches since two teams consist of translators with different expertise. However, it's understood from the translation analysis that there are not many differences in terms of translation techniques.

Both teams leant significantly to discursive creation, established equivalent and adaptation. It's observed that fans, however, used more literal translation techniques, which they also stated that they used when "they felt they couldn't find a proper translation". Professionals, however, leant less to literal translation and heavier to transposition, and modulation.

This could be resulted from two reasons:

- 1) Fans, although they were adversely affected by blindfold and having less experience, understood what gamers expected from a localized game as gamers themselves, and opted to add as much flavour a possible whenever they could understand the context.
- 2) Professionals, having a clearer picture of what text possibly mean in context since they are more used to working blindfolded, felt confident to use transposition and creation.

Another interesting finding is that some techniques were used little to none, and some were not used at all by both teams: Reduction, particularization, description, and compensation. Since it is a pattern observed on both professional and fan teams, it can be argued that it is a common pattern in localization of RPG genre of video games. Nevertheless, although translations were different, the techniques presented no significant differences.

4.3. IMMERSION TEST RESULTS: DESCRIPTIVE AND INFERENCIAL STATISTICS

Data obtained from player groups are analysed by carrying out a T-test using R programming language (R Core Team, 2024). The results are as follows (see Table 6):

Table 7. T-Test Results for Group Differences in Immersion Dimensions

Dimension	Group Mean	FP	Group Mean	PP	t(df)	p	95% CI
Curiosity	5.01		4.74		0.69 (21.33)	.498	[-0.56, 1.11]
Concentration	5.42		4.67		1.37 (21.22)	.185	[-0.39, 1.89]
Comprehension	5.68		5.55		0.47 (21.26)	.644	[-0.45, 0.71]
Control	5.85		5.33		1.09 (18.50)	.288	[-0.47, 1.51]
Challenge	5.36		5.42		-0.11 (21.68)	.910	[-1.07, 0.96]
Empathy	4.57		3.82		1.48 (18.05)	.157	[-0.32, 1.82]

Although there are two different TTs produced by translators with different backgrounds, T-test results showed that there are no significant differences in terms of player immersion.

This could be related to the fact that even though translations themselves were different, the translation techniques adopted by the teams did not have many differences. In fact, other than their tendencies to use transposition and literal translation techniques, the number of techniques were somewhat identical.

Another possibility is that the initial expectation of two different translations resulting in different levels of immersion is simply wrong, and as a result, translation does not affect immersion. This also indicates that professionals adding Q&A to their workflow did not have a significant effect as well. However, the fact that techniques used being mostly similar, it is hard to reach a definitive conclusion on this part.

Some participants of the player groups also pointed out that they felt the game was “a little bit short,” with average finishing times around 4-5 hours, and that they wished “they could experience the game more to have a clearer picture of how immersed they were” by the narrative itself. Their comments indicate that it could be possible to get different immersion results by using longer video games for further studies.

CONCLUSION

This chapter will conclude the study by discussing results through research questions and initial expectations for one last time, present an overall picture of the findings and future implications for further studies.

1.. FINAL COMMENTS ON FINDINGS

After the analysis, it has become apparent that the results are mostly incompatible with expected results. While there are interesting findings from different stages of data analysis, multiple dimensions are in need of more discussion and further studies.

Research Question 1: Do translation strategies have an impact on the effect of immersion that players experience in video games? If they have, to what extent and which strategies provide the higher degree of immersion?

Expectation 1: One of the target texts ensures a higher degree of immersion. TT produced by professionals has a higher chance of providing this since they have a background in industry and expertise. However, fan translators and their knowledge of gaming environments and expectations of player communities can have an effect on immersion as well. Nevertheless, the expectation is that texts will provide different degrees of immersion since there will be two different localizations experienced by two player groups.

First research question was surprisingly proven wrong through both translation techniques analysis and immersion scale results. The initial expectation was that two groups would provide two different translations leaning towards different techniques since they were selected based on an expert-novice paradigm. However, although translations were inherently different, both groups opted for similar strategies.

Both teams prioritized creating a naturally flowing text, so that players could feel as if the game text was written in Turkish. Fan translators were hit by the lack of context but aimed to work their creativity through their target text and use information they obtained on the

context as their work progressed. This affected their confidence and understanding of the target text, but in the end, they used similar techniques as professionals, with no significant strategy difference other than the use of literal translation technique. Professionals were also affected by the lack of context, but they managed to have a clearer understanding of the source text since they were used to working with blindfold and as a result, felt more confident as they move forward with the process.

This could be resulted from three reasons:

- 1) Fan translators' knowledge of gaming environments and them being gamers as well could've helped them to create a TT that would resonate with Turkish-speaking players as stated in the expectation.
- 2) Fan translators were people who carry out voluntary game localization activities but in addition to that, they were also translation and interpreting department students in training. This was not an inclusion (or exclusion) criterion for this study. However, their training in department and their willingness to become professional VLG specialists after their graduation could have contributed to the TT they produced, since they actively learn about translation industry in their departments and individually research industry standards.
- 3) With some fan translators having more experience than the professional translators, their hands-on experience, even though the said experience was not professional and necessarily befitting of industry standards, could have benefited their target text.

Additionally, immersion scale results showed no meaningful differences between the immersion levels experienced by player groups as well. As mentioned in the previous chapter, in this situation, it can be argued that the immersion scale results being close could be related to the fact that similar choices of translation techniques. If there are no drastic differences in terms of translation approach, it could be very well natural that immersion degree to be similar.

Another reason could be the short playtime of the Bastion, as stated by some player participants since "they felt that they could experience more". These participants stated

that even though they had completed the game, they had hard time answering some of the questions provided on the questionnaire since they felt the need to see a couple of more hours of the game's fictional world to give more definitive answers. Thus, it can be argued that using a video game with longer playing time could provide different immersion results. Of course, it is possible that there are no relationships between immersion and VGL. Nevertheless, under current circumstances, it is hard to reach a definitive conclusion.

Research Question 2: What are the differences between the practices of professional and fan localizations in terms of software (e.g. CAT Tools), challenges (e.g. Hardships encountered during translation process such as lack of context), and work (e.g. Roles they adopted through the translation process, if any)?

Expectation 2: Professional translation practices have a more structured approach since they are more familiar with industry standards and tools. Fan translators generally tend to use free, accessible, and basic tools at hand. Industry professionals use a wide variety of computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools, include concepts such as localization quality assurance (LQA), and work in teams with different roles such as project manager, reviewer, and QA specialist.

Although there are some differences observed on work practices, especially in terms of QA and software use, the teams showed similar work structures, which was also identified by Sarigül and Jonathan Maurice Ross (2020). Both teams had their members undertake various roles such as project manager, translator, reviewer and terminology manager, with the exception of LQA specialist in PT group. This result was expected for PT group and thanks to that, they could manage terminology errors and have a common ground of rules to work on collaboratively. For FT group, as stated previously, this could be a result of them knowing the industry standards thanks to them being translation students who aim to become industry professionals after graduation. Considering previous research of Sarigül and Jonathan Maurice Ross, it could also be claimed that fan translation activities show similar role structures in Turkish context as well.

An expectation that was proven correct was the teams' choice of software. While professionals use a wide variety of CAT tools on a daily basis, fan translators tend to

choose more accessible and basic tools and software. As predicted, PT group used CAT tools, namely SDL Trados and Smartcat, for translation, translation memory creation and term base management purposes; and Xbench for LQA procedures. However, FT group decided to work on Google Sheets by preparing separate pages on the same online document for translation and term base management. In addition to that, they bypassed QA stage since Google Sheets does not have internal LQA features like most of the CAT tools, and they did not use an external tool like Xbench or Verifika.

Another interesting finding was the importance of localization engineering and appropriate file preparation for localization process, since it was observed that professional team was hindered by the text document file type limitations of the CAT tools they have used. As they did not have previous experience on localization engineering, they had to do their own research and ask people who work in software fields to resolve these issues. It could be beneficial to conduct research on how professional localization specialists could use basic localization engineering and technical knowledge on software and programming to overcome file and CAT tool specific challenges. Studies on rom-hacking practices of Turkish fan translation communities and game development companies could also be beneficial to see the practices and impact more clearly in locale.

2. FURTHER STUDIES

Under these circumstances, to get a clearer picture on the relationship between immersion and localization, further research is definitely needed and will be greatly beneficial.

Even though this study provided valuable results by letting PT and FT teams free in terms of choices, prescriptive studies with instructions for translators to use specific translation techniques (e.g. literal translation for one group, variation for the other group) could present different immersion results. In addition to that, setting an upper limit to experience durations (e.g. fan translators with 3-6 months of experience and professional translators with at least 1 year of experience) and carrying out studies with fan translators who are not translation students in professional training could provide results that are different from professional translators and perhaps fits more correctly to the initial expectation.

Similar comparative studies with machine translation and human translators on video game localization, with focus on immersion could highlight whether human localisation specialists provide better immersion levels or and present a beneficial contribution as well. Choosing different types of video games as video games with longer play times as stated by the player participants as source text could also potentially also highlight the relationship between immersion and translation. Again, it is also possible that there is not a relationship between narrative immersion and localization at all but as mentioned previously, to get a clear picture of this hypothesis, more studies are needed.

In addition to studies focusing on immersion, similar studies with genres that have fewer narrative elements than RPGs could also shed light on how different text types require different approaches. Studies on fan translators' familiarity with specific video game genres and effect of this familiarity on localization could also provide much needed contributions to the literature by highlighting gaming knowledge as a key necessity of working in video game localization field.

REFERENCES

- Aarseth, E. (2023). *Ludology* (pp. 255–259). <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003214977-36>
- Achkasov, A. V. (2016). If the Mountain Won't Come... Translation Studies Meets Localization. *Journal of Siberian Federal University. Humanities & Social Sciences*, 9(3), 568–578. <https://doi.org/10.17516/1997-1370-2016-9-3-568-578>
- Agarwal, R., & Karahanna, E. (2000). Time Flies When You're Having Fun: Cognitive Absorption and Beliefs about Information Technology Usage. *MIS Quarterly*, 24, 665–694. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3250951>
- Apperley, T. H. (2006). Genre and game studies: Toward a critical approach to video game genres. *Simulation & Gaming*, 37(1), 6–23. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1046878105282278>
- Bernal Merino, M. (2014). *Translation and Localisation in Video Games: Making Entertainment Software Global* (1st ed.). Routledge.
- Brown, E., & Cairns, P. (2004). A grounded investigation of game immersion. In *Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems—Proceedings* (p. 1300). <https://doi.org/10.1145/985921.986048>
- Cairns, P., Cox, A., & Nordin, A. I. (2014). Immersion in Digital Games: Review of Gaming Experience Research. In M. C. Angelides & H. Agius (Eds.), *Handbook of Digital Games* (1st ed., pp. 337–361). Wiley. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118796443.ch12>
- Canbaz, E., & Öncü Yılmaz, T. (2019). Hikâye Odaklı Video Oyunlarda Çevirinin Rolü: The Last of Us Video Oyunu Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme. *Çeviribilim ve Uygulamaları Dergisi*, 26, 77–103. <https://doi.org/10.37599/ceviri.518781>
- Carr, D., Buckingham, D., Burn, A., & Schott, G. (2014). *Computer Games: Text, Narrative and Play* (1. Aufl). Polity.
- Cesário, V., Ribeiro, M., & Coelho, A. (2023). Exploring the Intersection of Storytelling, Localisation, and Immersion in Video Games – A Case Study of the Witcher III: Wild Hunt. In C. Stephanidis, M. Antona, S. Ntoa, & G. Salvendy (Eds.), *HCI International 2023 Posters* (pp. 546–552). Springer Nature Switzerland.

- Chandler, H. M., & Deming, S. O. (2011). *The Game Localization Handbook* (2nd ed.). Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc.
- Chen, D. M. H. (2024). Netnography of Fan Localization on Social Media Releases: Observation of Overwatch (OW) and Overwatch League (OWL). *Media and Intercultural Communication: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, 2(1), 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.22034/mic.2023.423883.1007>
- Chilton, G. (2013). Art Therapy and Flow: A Review of the Literature and Applications. *Art Therapy*, 30, 64–70. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07421656.2013.787211>
- Clarke, R. I., Lee, J. H., & Clark, N. (2017). Why Video Game Genres Fail: A Classificatory Analysis. *Games and Culture*, 12(5), 445–465. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1555412015591900>
- Csikszentmihalyi, M. (1990). *Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience*.
- Dietz, F. (2007). “How Difficult Can That Be?” – *The Work of Computer and Video Game Localization*.
- Dovey, J., & Kennedy, H. W. (2006). *Game cultures: Computer games as new media: Computer games as new media*. McGraw-Hill Education (UK).
- Ermi, L., & Mäyrä, F. (2005). *Fundamental Components of the Gameplay Experience: Analysing Immersion*.
- Esselink, B. (2002). *Localization Engineering: The Dream Job?*
- Farsi, R., & Dehnad, V. (2016). *Flow Theory and Immersion in Literary Narrative*. International Congress of Islamic Sciences and Humanities.
- Gaming in Turkey. (2025). *TÜRKİYE GAME MARKET 2024 REPORT*. Gaming in Turkey. <https://www.turkiyeoyunsektoruraporu.com/en/>
- Heibach, C. (1999). Creamus ergo sumus: Towards a multimedia aesthetics. *English Translation at Www. Update. Ch/Beluga/Digital/99/Heibach. Htm. Originally Published in German in Hyperfiction. Hyperliterarisches Lesebuch: Internet Und Literatur*. B. Suter and M. Böhler, Eds. Stroemfeld, Frankfurt Am Main, 101, 112.
- Hetcher, S. (2012). Amateur creative digital content and proportional commerce. In *Amateur Media* (pp. 35–52). Routledge.

- Jennett, C., Cox, A., Dhoparee, S., Epps, A., Tijs, T., & Walton, A. (2008). Measuring and Defining the Experience of the Immersion in Games. *International Journal of Human-Computer Studies*, 66, 641–661. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhcs.2008.04.004>
- Juul, J. (1999). *A Clash Between Game and Narrative*. Institute of Nordic Language and Literature, University of Copenhagen.
- Karagöz, S. (2021). Indie game localization communities as spheres of interaction. *RumeliDE Dil ve Edebiyat Araştırmaları Dergisi*, Ö9, 492–505. <https://doi.org/10.29000/rumelide.981570>
- Kohler, C. (2016). *Power-up: How Japanese video games gave the world an extra life*. Courier Dover Publications.
- Mangiron, C. (2007). Video Games Localisation: Posing New Challenges to the Translator. *Perspectives*, 14(4), 306–323. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09076760708669046>
- Mangiron, C. (2016). Games without borders: The cultural dimension of game localisation. *Hermeneus: Revista de La Facultad de Traducción e Interpretación de Soria*, 18, 187–208.
- Mangiron, C. (2017). Research in game localisation: An overview. *The Journal of Internationalization and Localization*, 4(2), 74–99. <https://doi.org/10.1075/jial.00003.man>
- Mangiron, C. (2018). Game on! Burning issues in game localisation. *Journal of Audiovisual Translation*, 1(1), 122–138. <https://doi.org/10.47476/jat.v1i1.48>
- Mangiron, C. (2022). Audiovisual translation and multimedia and game localisation. In *The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Methodology* (1st ed.). Routledge.
- McMahan, A. (2003). Immersion, engagement, and presence: A method for analyzing 3-D video games. *The Video Game Theory Reader*, 67–86.
- Mediacat. (2024). *Dentsu: 'Gaming is bigger than music and movies combined'*. Mediacat. <https://mediacat.uk/dentsu-gaming-is-bigger-than-music-and-movies-combined/>

- Molina, L., & Hurtado Albir, A. (2004). Translation Techniques Revisited: A Dynamic and Functionalist Approach. *Meta*, 47(4), 498–512. <https://doi.org/10.7202/008033ar>
- Morgado, L., & Beck, D. (2020). Unifying Protocols for Conducting Systematic Scoping Reviews with Application to Immersive Learning Research. *2020 6th International Conference of the Immersive Learning Research Network (iLRN)*, 155–162. <https://doi.org/10.23919/iLRN47897.2020.9155093>
- Muñoz Sánchez, P. (2015). Video Game Localisation for Fans by Fans: The Case of Romhacking. *The Journal of Internationalization and Localization*, 168–185. <https://doi.org/10.1075/jial.1.07mun>
- Murray, J. (2017). *Hamlet on the Holodeck: The Future of Narrative in Cyberspace (1997, updated 2017)*.
- Nauert, S. (2007). *Translating websites*. Acts of the LSP Translation Scenarios (MuTra). Conference proceedings.
- Naul, E., & Liu, M. (2020). Why Story Matters: A Review of Narrative in Serious Games. *Journal of Educational Computing Research*, 58(3), 687–707. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0735633119859904>
- Newman, J. (2008). *Playing with videogames*. Routledge.
- Newmark, P. (1988). *A textbook of translation* (Vol. 66). Prentice hall New York.
- Nida, E. A. (1964). *Toward a science of translating: With special reference to principles and procedures involved in Bible translating*. Brill Archive.
- Odacioğlu, C. (2015). Wolfenstein: The Old Blood Oyununun Türkçe Yerelleştirilmiş Versiyonunda Benimsenen Çeviri Yaklaşımları ve Bunun Oynanabilirlik Düzeyine Katkısı. *Journal Of History School*, 8(XXIII), 303-318. <https://doi.org/10.14225/Joh760>
- O’Hagan, D. M. (2007). *Video games as a new domain for translation research: From translating text to translating experience*.
- O’Hagan, M. (2006). *Game localisation: Unleashing imagination with “restricted” translation*. 6.

- O'Hagan, M. (2015). Evolution of User-generated Translation: Fansubs, Translation Hacking and Crowdsourcing. *The Journal of Internationalization and Localization*, 94–121. <https://doi.org/10.1075/jial.1.04hag>
- O'Hagan, M. (2017). Seeking delocalization: Fan community and game localization in the age of user empowerment. *The Journal of Internationalization and Localization*, 4(2), 183–202. <https://doi.org/10.1075/jial.00004.oha>
- O'Hagan, M., & Chandler, H. (2016). Game localization research and translation studies: Loss and gain under an interdisciplinary lens. In *Border crossings: Translation studies and other disciplines* (pp. 309–330). John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- O'Hagan, M., & Mangiron, C. (2004). *Games Localization: When Arigato gets lost in translation*.
- O'Hagan, M., & Mangiron, C. (2013). *Game localization: Translating for the global digital entertainment industry*. John Benjamins Publishing Company. <https://doi.org/10.1075/btl.106>
- Perez-Gonzalez, L. (2020). *Audiovisual Translation* (pp. 30–34).
- Pym, A. (2014). Localization, training, and instrumentalization. *Translation Research Projects*, 5, 37–50.
- Qin, H., Patrick Rau, P.-L., & Salvendy, G. (2009a). Measuring Player Immersion in the Computer Game Narrative. *International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction*, 25(2), 107–133. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10447310802546732>
- Qin, H., Patrick Rau, P.-L., & Salvendy, G. (2009b). Measuring Player Immersion in the Computer Game Narrative. *International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction*, 25(2), 107–133. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10447310802546732>
- Radford, A. (2000). Games and learning about form in architecture. *Automation in Construction*, 9, 379–385. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0926-5805\(99\)00021-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0926-5805(99)00021-7)
- Sarıgül-Jonathan Maurice Ross, S. (2020). Volunteer vs. Professional Community Translation in Video Game Localization: The Case of the Steam Translation

Server in Turkish. *transLogos Translation Studies Journal*, 3/2(3/2), 1–22.
<https://doi.org/10.29228/transLogos.24>

Sin, W. C., Bartrina, M., & Bartrina, F. (2012). *Approaching Localization*.

Sweetser, P., & Johnson, D. (2004). Player-Centered Game Environments: Assessing Player Opinions, Experiences and Issues. In *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* (Vol. 3166). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-28643-1_40

Vinay, J.-P., & Darbelnet, J. (1995). *Comparative stylistics of French and English*.

Witmer, B. G., & Singer, M. J. (1998). Measuring Presence in Virtual Environments: A Presence Questionnaire. *Presence: Teleoper. Virtual Environ.*, 7(3), 225–240.
<https://doi.org/10.1162/105474698565686>

Wolf, M. J. P., & Perron, B. (2023). *The Routledge Companion to Video Game Studies* (2nd ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003214977>

APPENDIX 1 ORIGINALITY REPORT

	HACETTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ	Doküman Kodu Form No.	FRM-YL-15
		Yayın Tarihi Date of Pub.	04.12.2023
	FRM-YL-15 Yüksek Lisans Tezi Orijinallik Raporu Master's Thesis Dissertation Originality Report	Revizyon No Rev. No.	02
		Revizyon Tarihi Rev.Date	25.01.2024

HACETTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ MÜTERCİM VE TERCÜMANLIK ANABİLİM DALI BAŞKANLIĞINA	
Tarih: 16/07/2025	
<p>Tez Başlığı: Çeviri Stratejilerinin Video Oyunlarında Sarmalanmaya Yaptığı Etki Üzerine Bir Çalışma: 'Bastion' Örneği</p>	
<p>Yukarıda başlığı verilen tezinin a) Kapak sayfası, b) Giriş, c) Ana bölümler ve d) Sonuç kısımlarından oluşan toplam 65 sayfalık kısmına ilişkin, 15/07/2025 tarihinde şahsım/tez danışmanım tarafından Turnitin adlı intihal tespit programından aşağıda işaretlenmiş filtrelemeler uygulanarak alınmış olan orijinallik raporuna göre, tezinin benzerlik oranı %17'dir.</p>	
<p>Uygulanan filtrelemeler*:</p>	
<p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Kabul/Onay ve Bildirim sayfaları hariç</p>	
<p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kaynakça hariç</p>	
<p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Alıntılar hariç</p>	
<p>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alıntılar dâhil</p>	
<p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 kelimeden daha az örtüşme içeren metin kısımları hariç</p>	
<p>Hacettepe Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Tez Çalışması Orijinallik Raporu Alınması ve Kullanılması Uygulama Esasları'nı inceledim ve bu Uygulama Esasları'nda belirtilen azami benzerlik oranlarına göre tezinin herhangi bir intihal içermediğini; aksinin tespit edileceği muhtemel durumlarda doğabilecek her türlü hukuki sorumluluğu kabul ettiğimi ve yukarıda vermiş olduğum bilgilerin doğru olduğunu beyan ederim.</p>	
<p>Gereğini saygılarımla arz ederim.</p>	
Sena Nur YILDIZ	

Öğrenci Bilgileri	Ad-Soyad	Sena Nur YILDIZ
	Öğrenci No	N22131622
	Enstitü Anabilim Dalı	Mütercim ve Tercümanlık
	Programı	İngilizce Mütercim ve Tercümanlık

DANIŞMAN ONAYI

UYGUNDUR,
Doç. Dr. Alper KUMCU

* Tez Almanca veya Fransızca yazılıyor ise bu kısımda tez başlığı **Tez Yazım Dilinde** yazılmalıdır.

**Hacettepe Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Tez Çalışması Orijinallik Raporu Alınması ve Kullanılması Uygulama Esasları İkinci bölüm madde (4)/3'te de belirtildiği üzere: Kaynakça hariç, Alıntılar hariç/dahil, 5 kelimeden daha az örtüşme içeren metin kısımları hariç (Limit match size to 5 words) filtreleme yapılmalıdır.

	HACETTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ	Doküman Kodu Form No.	FRM-YL-15
		Yayın Tarihi Date of Pub.	04.12.2023
	FRM-YL-15 Yüksek Lisans Tezi Orijinallik Raporu <i>Master's Thesis Dissertation Originality Report</i>	Revizyon No Rev. No.	02
		Revizyon Tarihi Rev.Date	25.01.2024

TO HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING	
Date: 16/07/2025	
Thesis Title (In English): A Study on the Effects of Translation Strategies on Video Game Immersion: The Case of 'Bastion'	
According to the originality report obtained by myself/my thesis advisor by using the Turnitin plagiarism detection software and by applying the filtering options checked below on 15/07/2025 for the total of 65 pages including the a) Title Page, b) Introduction, c) Main Chapters, and d) Conclusion sections of my thesis entitled above, the similarity index of my thesis is 17%.	
Filtering options applied**:	
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Approval and Declaration sections excluded	
2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> References cited excluded	
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Quotes excluded	
4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quotes included	
5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Match size up to 5 words excluded	
I hereby declare that I have carefully read Hacettepe University Graduate School of Social Sciences Guidelines for Obtaining and Using Thesis Originality Reports that according to the maximum similarity index values specified in the Guidelines, my thesis does not include any form of plagiarism; that in any future detection of possible infringement of the regulations I accept all legal responsibility; and that all the information I have provided is correct to the best of my knowledge.	
Kindly submitted for the necessary actions.	
Sena Nur YILDIZ	

Student Information	Name-Surname	Sena Nur YILDIZ
	Student Number	N22131622
	Department	Translation and Interpreting
	Programme	English Translation and Interpreting

SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL

APPROVED
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alper KUMCU

**As mentioned in the second part (article (4)/3) of the Thesis Dissertation Originality Report's Codes of Practice of Hacettepe University Graduate School of Social Sciences, filtering should be done as following: excluding reference, quotation excluded/included, Match size up to 5 words excluded.

APPENDIX 2 . ETHICS COMMISSION FORM



T.C.
HACETTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ REKTÖRLÜĞÜ
Sosyal ve Beşeri Bilimler Araştırma Etik Kurulu

Tarih: 24/01/2024 16:38
Sayı: E-66777842-300-00003335009



Sayı : E-66777842-300-00003335009
Konu : Etik Kurulu İzni (Sena Nur YILDIZ)

24/01/2024

SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ MÜDÜRLÜĞÜNE

İlgi : 10.01.2024 tarihli ve E-12908312-300-00003300753 sayılı yazınız.

Enstitünüz Mütercim Tercümanlık Anabilim Dalı İngilizce Mütercim Tercümanlık Yüksek Lisans Programı öğrencilerinden **Sena Nur YILDIZ**'ın, **Dr. Öğr.Üyesi Alper KUMCU** danışmanlığında yürüttüğü "**Çeviri Stratejilerinin Video Oyunlarında Sarmalanmaya Yaptığı Etki Üzerine Bir Çalışma: "BASTİON" Örneği**" başlıklı tez çalışması Üniversitemiz Sosyal ve Beşeri Bilimler Araştırma Etik Kurulunun **23 Ocak 2024** tarihinde yapmış olduğu toplantıda incelenmiş olup, etik açıdan uygun bulunmuştur.

Bilgilerinizi ve gereğini rica ederim.

Prof. Dr. İsmet KOÇ
Kurul Başkanı

Bu belge güvenli elektronik imza ile imzalanmıştır.

Belge Doğrulama Kodu: D54EF8CC-6072-4B1A-A951-1FFFBD440F1

Belge Doğrulama Adresi: <https://www.turkiye.gov.tr/hu-ebys>

Adres:

Bilgi için: Burak CİHAN

E-posta: Elektronik Ağ: www.hacettepe.edu.tr

Bilgisayar İşletmeni

Telefon: Faks:

Telefon: 03123051082

Kep:



APPENDIX 3. A QUESTIONNAIRE OF PLAYER IMMERSION IN COMPUTER GAME NARRATIVE (Qin et al., 2009)

Curiosity:

1. I am familiar with the cultural background.
2. I am interested in the style of the game interface.
3. The story quickly grabs my attention at the beginning.
4. Many events in the game story are novel.
5. I want to know the rest of the storyline in the course of playing.
6. The avatar in the game is attractive.

Concentration:

7. I concentrate on the story for a long time.
8. I become less aware of the real world and unhappy things around me when I concentrate on the progress of the game story.
9. When I enter into the game story world, time always flies quickly.

Comprehension:

10. I can make sense of the relationship between events.
11. I think the position of the events in the whole story's progress is clear.
12. I know my next goal while finishing an event every time.
13. I can comprehend the game story clearly.
14. The avatar can be located in the interface easily.
15. I can make sense of the relationship between the characters in the game story.
16. The obstacles or tasks do not influence my comprehension of the game story.

Control:

- 17. I can control the character to move according to my arrangement.
- 18. I can control the game interface.
- 19. I explore actively what I want to in the game story.
- 20. Parts of the story are formed by me in the course of playing the game.
- 21. I can control the progress of the game story.

Challenge:

- 22. Some tasks or conflicts in the game story are stimulating and suspenseful.
- 23. I like the tasks or conflicts, which are difficult in the game story.
- 24. I feel successful when I overcome the obstacles, tasks, or opponents in the game.

Empathy:

- 25. Sometimes I think I really am the avatar in the game.
- 26. My emotion often varies with the story's progress.
- 27. After finishing the game, it takes a long time for me to return to the real world psychologically and emotionally.
- 28. I spend time thinking about the storyline sometimes when I am not playing the game.
- 29. Sometimes I recollect the characters in the game in my spare time.

APPENDIX 4. Fan Translator Team, Think Aloud Protocol Voice Recording Transcriptions

FT-1:

Oyunla ilgili en zorlandığım kısım sanırım, yani çeviri süreciyle de ilgili en zorlandığım kısım, oyunun kişisel zevklerime hitap etmemesiydi diyebilirim. Çok ilgimi çeken bir oyun değildi. Yine de çeviri süreci ilerledikçe ve hikâyeye, karakterlere biraz daha aşına oldukça, hani olabildiği kadar olabileceği en keyifli haline geldi sanırım benim için çeviri süreci.

Çoğunlukla çeviri esnasında karakterlerin ağzından ya da anlatıcının ağzından söylenen cümleleri Türkçede, Türkçe söylüyor olsaydı nasıl bir üslup kullanırdı diye düşünüp o şekilde bir çeviri uygulamayı düşündüm şahsen. Diğer arkadaşlarım da öyle yapmıştı sanırım, onların çevirilerini de gördüm. O yüzden böyle bir yorum yapabilirim sanırım. Daha doğal deyişler kullanmak istedim. İngilizce bir cümlenin direkt Türkçe çevirisi, hani Amerikan dublajı gibi dediğimiz bir ürünün ortaya çıkmasını istemedim.

O yüzden daha günlük, Türkçenin doğal akışı içinde sırtımayacak cümleler kullanmaya çalıştım. Ne kadar başarılı olduğumu bilmiyorum ama. Bir takım olarak çalışmak, özellikle gönüllü bir takım olarak çalışmak tabii ki birkaç zorlukla birlikte geliyor. Bunun en önemli kısmı sanırım insanları projeyi ilerletmeye teşvik etmek. Aslında bu kısım benim sorumluluğumda değildi.

FT-2'yi proje yöneticimiz olarak belirlemiştik. Daha çok o üstlendi. Çok da iyi üstlendiğini düşünüyorum. Ama proje sona yaklaştıkça artık bitmesini istemekle birlikte, hani bu kadar uğraştık, artık daha da uzamasın dedik. Zaten sınavlarımız da yaklaşıyordu o sıralar. Hatta sınavlarımızdan dolayı bir süre ara vermemiz gerekti, o yüzden de uzadı.

Artık bitmesini istiyorduk çünkü azar azar yaptıkça artık bitmeyecek bir hale geliyordu. O yüzden birazcık ben de insanları teşvik etme rolüne girmiş bulundum. Keyifli bir şey değil, açıkçası proje yöneticiliği gerçekten zor bir şey anladığım kadarıyla. Ben yapmadığım halde bile bu yorumu yapabiliyorum. Kullandığım araçlara gelince, yani Tureng'i çok kullandım, sanırım sadece Tureng'i kullandım.

Hiç makine çeviri aracına koymadım çünkü yani tercih ettiğim bir şey değil. Çünkü çeviri aracının çıkardığı çeviriyi düzeltmek zaten başlı başına zaman alıyor. Ayrıca bu çalışma kapsamında zaten kullanmamamız gerekiyordu. Onun dışında Tureng'i kullandım sadece diyebilirim. Kaynaklarım, oyunla ilgili çeviri sürecinde elime geçen kaynaklar, bize sunulduğu kadarıyla sınırlıydı.

Oyun hakkında bir tanıtım videosu izledik, bazı karakterlerin açıklamalarını gördük. Bunun dışında oyunla ilgili bilgimiz bu kadardı. Oyunu çevirdikçe hikâyeye hâkim olmaya başladık. Oyunun içindeki eşyalar, kullanılan dil, diyaloglara göre yaşanan olayları çözümlememiz, çeviri süreci ilerledikçe daha kolay oldu. Bununla birlikte en zorlandığım kısım sanırım kendimi gönüllü olarak girdiğim bir şeye devam etmeye teşvik etmektir.

Çünkü bu bir sorumluluk, tabii ki üzerimize kendi isteğimizle aldığımız bir sorumluluk ve devam ettirme gibi bir yükümlülüğümüz var. Bunu bitirince gerçekten çok rahatladım. Başlarda çok düzenli bir şekilde odaklanamamıştım. Ama zaman geçtikçe ve oyunun hikayesine daha hâkim oldukça kendi isteğimle girip yapmaya başladım diyebilirim. Genel olarak keyifli bir süreç yaşadım.

Böyle de bir deneyim edinmiş oldum. Sanırım deneyimimi bu şekilde özetleyebilirim. Oyunda tabii ki de birçok neolojizm değil de, yerelleştirerek aktarmamız gereken birçok şey vardı, nasıl desem? Bazı öğeler için Türkçede güzel bir karşılık bulmamız gerekiyordu. Örneğin, sanırım içki isimleri bunlar.

Bazılarında “Çok düpedüz çeviri gibi” oldum, bazılarında gerçekten “Vay be, bu eşyaları Türkçeleştirenler gerçekten de bu işe gönül vermiş” diyebilecek kadar içimize sinen çeviriler oldu ben şahsen. O şekilde söyleyebilirim. Bir yandan ben ekipte imla hatalarını düzeltmekten sorumluydum, imla ve noktalama. Bunun için neredeyse tüm çevirileri bir gözden geçirmem gerekti.

Çok fazla hatayla karşılaştım diyemem, tabii ki de vardı. İşte zaman zaman gözümüzden kaçıyor. Zaman zaman gerçekten de bilmeden yapmış oluyoruz o hataları. Bunları düzeltirken kendi çevirilerime de rastladım. İlk başta okuduğumda çok saçma gelirken sonra kendim yazdığım bir çeviri olduğunu görünce gerçekten çok garip hissettirdi. Çünkü o satırı yazan başka bir zamandaki bendim. Ama şu an bakınca hiç öyle gelmiyor,

sanki başka birisi yazmış gibi hissettiriyor. Böyle düşünerek düzelttiğim çok fazla kendi çevirim oldu. Çok garip bir histi. Sanırım söyleyebileceklerim bu şekilde. Süreç gerçekten çok keyifliydi.

Böyle bir çalışmanın parçası olmak da değişik bir deneyimdi. Sanırım emeği geçen herkese teşekkür ediyorum. Bu kadar.

FT-2:

Öncelikle merhaba. Çalışma süresince deneyimlerimi aktaracak olursam çalışma esnasında proje yöneticisi konumundaydım. Ekipte bir dağılım yaptık. Öncelikle çeviri sürecinin nasıl işleyeceğini planladım. Kimlere ne kadar kelime düşecek gün bazında ya da ne kadar segment satırı düşecek gün bazında, işte hafta bazında kaç bölmeliyim gibi.

Bunlar en başta proje yönetimi deneyimim yeterince olmadığı için birazcık zorluk yarattı ama sonrasında, yani sürece alıştıkça kolaylıkla yönettiğimi düşünüyorum. Proje esnasında bazı seçimler yapmak zorunda kaldım. Örneğin sadece ben değil, ekip arkadaşlarımla beraber seçimler yapmak zorunda kaldık. Mesela özel isimlerin çevrilip çevrilmeyeceği. Bazı özel isimleri bırakmak zorunda kaldık. Tanrı isimleri tanrıça isimleri vardı.

Bastion'ı, kendi ismini çevirmeli miyiz, tutmalı mıyız, onda da çok kararsız kaldık ama en sonunda Hisar'da karar kıldık. Genel olarak isimleri çevirdik. Sadece ana karakter Kid'i diğer karakterlerden farklı olsun ve cümle içinde evlat, çocuk kullanıma karışmasın ona seslenirken diye bilerek Kid diye bıraktık. Zorluklara geçecek olursam hiçbir bilgimiz olmadığı için zorlandık. Yani tabi ki de birazcık bilgi sağlandı. Oyunun içeriği hakkında ve karakterler ana karakterler hakkında bilgi verildi ama birkaç ekran görüntüsü ve o bilgiler dışında hiçbir kaynağımız olmadığı için gerçekten çok zorlandık.

Özellikle silah isimleri konusunda. Silahların isimleri işlevleri gidilen yerler bunları nasıl çevireceğiz veya işte neye yormalıyız çevirirken? Onun hakkında hiçbir fikrimiz yok, olabildiğince yuvarlayarak çevirmeye çalıştık o yüzden. Hani kesin çizgilere oturtmadan bulanık hatlarla çevirmeye çalıştık bazı segmentleri, bazı kelime öbeklerini veya. Onun dışında bir zorlukla karşılaşmadığımızı düşünüyorum.

İmla konusunda olabilir. Çünkü bazen oyunlarda alt yazının nasıl görüldüğüne, estetiğine daha çok önem veriliyor. Bazı durumlarda kesinlikle imla kuralları daha çok öne çıkıyor. O konuda birazcık kararsız kaldık ama geneline bir kural oturtmaya çalıştık diyebilirim. Genelimde gözü rahatsız etmeyecek şekilde çevirdiğimizi düşünüyorum.

Bunun dışında neler kullandık? Proje boyunca çevrimiçi sözlükler çok yardımcımız oldu. Çevrimiçi sözlüklerden bayağı faydalandık. Zaten onun dışında da oyun hakkında bilgi almamız gerekiyordu ama oyunla ilgili internetten bilgi edinmemiz mümkün değildi.

Ama dediğim gibi sözlüklerin çeviri esnasında çok yardımı dokundu. Birbirimizle fikir alışverişinde bulduğumuz WhatsApp grubu aracılığıyla, onun çok yardımı dokundu sürekli birbirimizle iletişim halinde olduk. Çünkü bir kelimeye karar veremeyince, ya da ne bileyim, kelime öbeğine karar veremeyince iletişim kurmak çok etkili oldu. Ha bir de projeyi Google Sheets üzerinden yürüttüğümüz için orada da böyle yorum bırakma ve işte bırakılan yorumun hemen e-postaya düşmesi etmesi oradan geri bildirim verebilme çok işimizi kolaylaştırdı.

Söyleyeceklerim bu kadar genel olarak eğlenceliydi. Sadece son zamanlara doğru birazcık tempomuz düştü maalesef. O da nazar boncuğu olsun diyorum. Şimdiden teşekkürler. Böyle bir projede yer aldığımız, böyle bir fırsat verdiğiniz için. Görüşmek üzere.

FT-3:

Bu tez projesinde genel olarak çalışma düzenimizin gayet düzenli olduğunu düşünüyorum. Rol dağılımında benim rolüm kendi bana ayrılmış kısmı çevirmektir sadece. Onun dışında terimce kontrolcümüz vardı. Proje yönetimi kısmında FT-2 halletti orayı. Onun dışında benim yaptığım tek şey bana ayrılmış alanı çevirmek ve eğer yeni, görülmemiş bir terminoloji varsa onu eklemektir.

Programlar olarak Sheets üzerinden ilerledik, başka program kullanılmadı, iletişimimizi de oradan yaptık aynı zamanda. Orada hepimiz aynı anda online olduğumuzda kendi aramızda konuşuyorduk. Online değilsek WhatsApp grubumuz vardı, oradan iletişime

geçiyorduk. Aynı zamanda sınıfta birbirimizi görünce yüz yüze de iletişime geçebiliyorduk.

Çeviri sürecinde yaşadığım zorluklar çok fazla kelime oyunu olması öncelikle. Ana karakterin isminin Kid olması ve bunun hem çocuk hem özel isim anlamında kullanılması ve bundan kelime oyunu yapılması zordu. Bir de şey, şu tecrübeyi de fark ettim, geçmişte tüm oyunlar İngilizce oynadığım için tüm terimlere İngilizce alışmışım ve Türkçeye tam olarak nasıl çevriliyor bakmamıştım. Bazı terimleri, hani sabit, her oyunda olan terimleri çevirmek için başka oyunlarından örnek baktım direkt. Diğer oyunlarda nasıl çevriliyor? Çünkü genel bir çevirisi var genellikle her yerde aynı çevriliyor.

Kelime oyunları konusunda da onları bazı yerlerde yok etmek zorunda kaldık, bazı yerlerde hani aynı anlamı farklı şekillerde vermeye çalıştık. Bu çeviri sürecine genel yaklaşımında ise bir gönüllülük projesiydi evet, ama tecrübe kazanmak için ya da işler nasıl işliyor az çok onu öğrenmek için bir çalışma şekilde baktım çünkü ilk deneyimim sayılabilir. Geçmişteki deneyimlerimden çok da hani büyük bir işti. Genel olarak tecrübe kazanma ve işleyişi nasıl ona baktım, o öyle bir şekilde yaklaştım.

FT-4:

Proje başında görev dağılımı yaptık. FT-2 proje yöneticilerimiz oldu ve tüm dosyaları birleştirip Google Sheets üzerinde düzenleyebileceğimiz tek bir dosya haline getirdi. Ben de terim kontrol görevini aldım ve tüm dosyayı tarayarak bir terimce oluşturdum. Beni çeviride en çok zorlayan şeyler evrendeki yeni kelime ve terimlere çok karşılık bulmak oldu. Zaman zaman ekip içinde fikir alışverişi yaparak kelimelere beraber karşılık bulduğumuz oldu.

İşte ayrıca oyunu oynayan insanların yabancılık çekmemesi için de arayüz metinlerindeki cümle yapılarını piyasadaki mevcut oyunlarla benzer tutmaya çalıştım.

FT-5:

Yaptığımız çevirinin sürecini aslında temelde üçe ayırabilirim. İlki çeviri ile ilgili planlamaları yapmak aslında. Kimlerin hangi rollerde çalışacağı ya da çeviriler bitmeden

önce bittikten sonra nasıl, neler yapabileceğimiz, bunların planlanması bence önemli adımlardan birisiydi. Onun sonrasında çeviri ile ilgili araştırmalar yapmak vardı çevirinin kendisini yapmadan önce ya da yaparken. Bunlar genellikle çıkaramadığımız yerleri internetten araştırmak ya da bağlamdan çıkarmak ya da birbirimize danışarak bazı yorumlar yapmak gibi şeyleri içeriyordu.

Üçüncü adım da gerçekten çevirinin kendisini yapmak. Yani masanın başına oturup o sözcükleri çevirmeye, yazmaya başlamaktı. Diğer iki adımı iyi planladığımız ve iyi bir şekilde devam ettirdiğimiz için çevirinin kendisi de çok zorlayıcı olmadı. Birbirimize çok destek olduk bence. En büyük artlarından biri oydu çeviri sürecinin.

O yüzden keyifli geçen bir çeviri oldu diyebilirim. Karşılaştığımız zorluklar tabii ki oldu buna rağmen. Özellikle İngilizceye özgü söz oyunları yaptıkları yerlerde ya da çeviride spesifik bir kısım vardı kelimelerle bir tekerleme gibi bir şey yaptığı. Oyunda geçen başka önemli kelimeleri baş harfleriyle verdiği uzun bir kısım vardı her harf için. Oraları hem Türkçede hem İngilizcede aynı harfle başlayan şekilde tutturmak birazcık zordu açıkçası açıklamalarıyla beraber. Bununla beraber özel isimleri çevirmemek ya da İngilizce de olup Türkçe de olmayan Q, W gibi harflerle bir şeyler bulmak bizi birazcık zorladı.

O tarz kısımlarda ya orijinal şekilde bırakıp uyması için söz oyununa ve sıralamaya, harf sıralamasına uyması için olduğu şekilde bırakıp ondan sonra Türkçesini açıklayarak bir yol edinmeyi seçtik. Çünkü bizim çeviriyi yaparken en büyük amacımız bence en azından şuydu: Türk bir oyuncu bunu okuduğunda ne kadar doğal geliyor? Yani çoğu çevirmen gibi bizim de amacımız aslında o doğallığı yakalamaktı. Ama bunu başaramadığımız yerlerde de aslında doğallığı yakalamak için zorlayıp oyunun kendisinden bir şeyler götürmek yerine çevirme yoluna girdik.

Bu aslında daha çok daha uzun çevirilerde yapılan bir şey bence. Yerelleştirmede çok fazla kullanılan bir yöntem olduğunu sanmıyorum ama oyunun karakter sınırının bize izin verdiğince biz bunu yapmaya çalıştık açıkçası. Çok hani eğrelti durmayacak şekilde aslında.

Kullandığımız kaynaklar ve uygulamalar konusunda da aslında çok komplike kaynaklar kullanmadık. En sondaki yazım ve noktalama düzenlemesi için bir CAT tool kullanmadık bildiğim kadarıyla. Bunun en büyük nedeni zaten Google Sheets'ten çalışıyor olmamızdı.

Google Sheets bize halihazırda aynı anda aynı dosya üzerinde çalışma imkânı veriyor. Bunun dışında kategorilendirme ve kullanıcılara özel ayrı ayrı kısımlar yaratabilme özelliği özellikle çeviri süresince kimin nereye çevireceği ya da birbirimizin ilerlemesini görmek açısından oldukça rahatlatı bizi.

Bunun için başka bir aslında uygulamaya gerek duymadık. Bunun dışında kaynak olarak çok fazla şey baz alamadık açıkçası. Oyun zaten oyunu görmememiz gerektiği için. Normal küçük çeviriler için Tureng ve İngilizce sözlükler gibi basit kaynakların dışında çok bir şey kullanmadık. Genellikle birbirimize danışarak oyunun önceki satırlardan ve sonraki satırlardan bir bağlam çıkarmaya çalışarak aslında kelimelerin anlamlarını ve sahneleri kafamızda canlandırmaya çalıştık. Bu kadar.

APPENDIX 5. Professional Translator Team, Think Aloud Protocol Voice Recording Transcriptions

PT-1:

Selam, Őimdi öncelikle nasıl iletiŐime geçtik, iŐte dosyaları nasıl bölüŐtük, ne yaptık genel bir süreci anlatacađım. Yaptıđımız Zoom görüşmesinden sonra bir tane Whatsapp grubu kurduk. Çünkü orada hani konuŐtuđumuzda hepimiz için iletiŐim açısından kolay olan platformun Whatsapp olduđunu söylemiŐtik. Bir Whatsapp grubu kurduk. Daha sonrasında herkesin hem çevirmen hem editör hem de son okumacı olarak görev üstlenebileceđi bir program hazırladık.

Burada PT-4 bütün dosyaları Trados'a dosya attıktan sonra kelime sayılarına baktı ve ondan sonra sayılarının aŐađı yukarı eŐit olacađı Őekilde dört gruba ayırdı. Bu dört grubu da kura usulü kendi aramızda bölüŐtük. Daha sonra rolleri de kura usulü bölüŐtük. Sadece hani aynı kiŐilerin hem çeviri hem editörlük aynı dosyada hem de son okuma yapmamasına dikkat ettik.

Yani her dosyayı çevirmen editör ve son okumacı olarak üç kiŐi görecekti. O Őekilde başladık. Burada öncelikle Trados üzerinden ilerlemeye karar vermiŐtik ama Trados bize epey bir sıkıntı çıkardı. Ondan sonra buradan vazgeçtik dođal olarak. Çünkü daha sonra iŐte içi boş gözükten dosyalar oldu ve o dosyaları açınca içinin dolu olduđunu gördük vesaire.

Smartcat'e taŐınalım dedik. Smartcat de PT-3'ün aklına geldi. Smartcat'e taŐındık. Oraya yine dosyaları aktarmak, oraya uyarlamak vesaire yine bayađı sıkıntı oldu. Hani normalde Excel dosyalarını atarken gözükmemesi gereken "page" ya da "id kod" kısımları filan da çıkıyordu.

Daha sonrasında bunu CTRL+Insert'le geçmenin daha kolay olacađına kanaat getirdik. Çünkü dosyalarda dediđimiz gibi sıkıntı vardı. Sonrasında tam bitti ve düze çıktık derken bu dosyalardan birinin de aslında çevrilebilir bir dosya olduđunu fark ettik. Oysa biz bu dosyayı Trados'a attıđımızda zaten hiç okumamıŐtı. Smartcat'e de ilk attıđımızda okumamıŐtı.

Daha sonra bu dosyayı yine PT-3 ve PT-1 sağ olsunlar çevirmek için daha doğrusu dosya biçimini çevirmek için epey bir uğraştılar. O da bize epey bir sıkıntı çıkardı. Daha sonra yine bir dosya çıktı. Bu dosyadan sonrasında tekrar içi boş gözükken dosyayı tamamen çevirdiğimizde sözcük sayısı, işte çevrilmesi gereken sözcük sayısı yedi binden on bine çıktı ve biz bu dosya ortaya çıkana kadar bunun çevrilebilir olduğunu görene kadar bitti zannediyorduk. Dolayısıyla epey bir kaos yaşadık.

Burada ilk başta ayırdığımız gruplara devam edecek şekilde ama yapamadık maalesef bu kaoslar yüzünden. Yine aynı şekilde herkes bölüştüğü gibi metinleri aldı. Grup bir grup iki grup üç grup dört olarak. Ama bu son çıkan dosyaya yine herkes ne zaman uygunsa, hangi saatte uygunsa, nasıl uygunsa o şekilde segment segment olacak şekilde böldük. Örneğin ben doğru hatırlıyorsam dört yüz ve sekiz yüzüncü satır arasına aldım. Sonra işte mesela bin altı yüz ve iki bin arasına aldım sanırım. O şekilde ilerledik ve hani herkes elini taşın altına koyarak bir şekilde bu çeviriyi de tamamladık. Bu uzun dosyanın düzeltisi de yine o şekilde oldu. Ben kendi çevirdiğim satırlar haricinde tamamının düzeltisini yaptım. Ondan sonra benim satırlarımın düzeltisinde yaptılar.

O şekilde editörlük kısmını bölüşmüş olduk. Daha sonra bu mevzu yine PT-3'e kaldı ve Xbench üstünden kalite kontrolünü yaptı. Yine PT-1 de arkadaşlarına danışarak dosya dönüştürme biçimlerini bu, sorun yaratan dosyayı yine oyunun içine aktarılabilir bir hale getirdi. Bu şekilde bütün dosyaları bir araya getirmiş olduk.

Bizim için öncelikle, yani en azından kendi adıma konuşursam çeviri konusunda zor olan şeyler, bağlamsız bir şekilde çevirmeye çalışmaktı. Yani oyun metninin içerisinde ilerleyip oyunun artık tamamını çevirince neyin ne olduğunu görebiliyorsunuz ve çeviri belleğinden de bakınca size fikir verecek şeyler çıkıyor. Ama biz ilk başta özellikle bu boş gözükken dosya yüzünden sorun yaşadık. Temel şeylerin çoğu orada yer alıyor. Elimizde bu olmadığı ve diğer kısımları bölüştüğümüz için ilk başta neyin ne olduğunu pek anlayamamıştık. Çok aniden ortadan dalınca ve doğal olarak hani wikisinden bakma şansımız yok, Google'dan araştırma şansımız yok, videosunu izleme şansımız yok, karşımızda herhangi bir müşteri yok, deneme yapmak gibi bir şansımız yok. Dolayısıyla yani kör topal ilerlemek zorundasınız ilk aşamada. Ama daha sonra oyunda ilerledikçe ve bir şeyler yerine oturdukça şey de demedik, hani bu böyle kalsa bir şey olmaz demek yerine çevirileri değiştirdiğimiz olduğu, en basitinden aklıma gelen şey “Pufuruk”

sözcüğünü kullandık mesela. Onlar öncesinde “Körük”tü yine diğer Körük gibi. Sonrasında bunların işte “Gazcan”larla vesaire aynı aileden olduğunu öğrenince “Pufuruk” diye bir sözcük ürettik ve o şekilde ilerledik.

Genel yaklaşımda yine Türkçe kolay okunabilir olması ve mesela kesme işareti kullanımı konusunda ya da daha deyim ya da sokak ağzı vesaire kullanma konusunda Türkçe okunmasına dikkat ettik. Yani gerçekten metnin Türkçe yazılmış gibi hissettirmesi gerekiyordu. Ayrıca mesela “Çocuk” için ya da “Çekirdek” için kesme işareti kullanmamayı tercih ettik. Çünkü Çocuğu ya da çekirdeği gibi görünce bir yerden sonra insanın gözünde akıcılığı kalmıyor. Bunlara ek olarak normalde kaynaktaki zaman dilimiyle aynı şekilde ilerlemiştik.

Yani hangi zaman kullanılmışsa o zamanlı talep metinde de kullanmıştık ama sonrasında bunun başında ve sonunda bir hikâyenin başı ve sonu olduğunu belli eden replikler olduğu için sonrasında her şeyi, yani o an anlatılan ya da işte size anlatılıyormuş gibi duran şeyler dışında her şeyi, normal hikâye zamanına dönüştürmeyi tercih ettik. Onun dışında ben bu bütün bu kaoslara rağmen profesyonel bir ekiple çalışmaktan gerçekten keyif aldım. Çünkü hepimizin deneyimi olduğu bir alan. Yani herkes bu işi gerçekten profesyonel olarak yapıyor ve bizim sıkıntımız gerçekten Trados'un öncelikle azizliğine uğramak oldu. Daha sonrasında da Smartcat'in azizliğine uğramak oldu.

Bu metin dosyaları sebebiyle bu sıkıntıları yaşamayı çok daha kolay ve çok daha geniş zamana yayarak halledebileceğimizi düşünüyorum ama yine de her şeye rağmen bir tür bu tür şeylerin üstesinden geldik. O yüzden başarılı oldu. Onun dışında Whatsapp'ta hepimiz gerçekten aktif olduğumuz için sürekli fikir alışverişi yaptık terimler konusunda ya da kendi önümüze çıkan ama bağlamını bilmediğimiz şeyleri gruba sorduk. Daha önce çevirmiş olanlar bahsetti vesaire. Sürekli fikir alışverişi olan ve sürekli birbirimize destek olduğumuz bir ortamdı.

PT-2:

Genel olarak önce zaten senle yaptığımız toplantıdaki gibi Trados kullanalım diye anlaştık ekipçe. Trados'u, eklentileri vesaire ayarladıktan sonra dosyaları bölüştük. İşte editör bir, editör iki olacak şekilde aslında ayarlamaya çalıştık öncesinde. Yani iki editörden geçecek şekilde ayarlamaya çalıştık ama dosyaları çevirmeye başladıktan sonra küçük bir sıkıntı fark ettik. Hatta dosyaları çevirmeye başladıktan sonra değil elimizde o bölüştüğümüz dosyaların çevirisi bittikten sonra on yedi bin kelimelik bir kısmı çevirmediğimizi fark ettik çünkü Trados o dosyayı boş gösteriyordu. Dosyayı algılamıyordu yani. Sonra XML dosyası olduğu için onu bir şekilde önce Excel'e sonra .xlifl'e dönüştürdük. .xliff üzerinden Smartcat'e ekledik çünkü Trados çalışmıyordu.

Bu süreçte bu arada yazılımcı arkadaşlarıma koştuk. Çünkü şeydi yani bayağı, hani dosyayı çevirmeye çalışıyorum olmuyor. GitHub'dan bakayım dedim. Ben hallederim dedim gruba onu. Nasıl dönüştüreceğimi çözmeye çalışıyorum. İşte GitHub'dan uygulama buldum. İnmedi, inince çalışmadı. Çünkü bayağı yani böyle eski bir uygulama yapmışlar ve uzun bir süredir güncelleme almamış. O yüzden işimizi görmedi. En son neyse yazılımcı arkadaşlarımdan rica ettim ve bir şekilde sağ olsunlar dönüştürmeyi başardılar onlara.

Sonrasında neyse çeviriye geçtik. Çeviri için bu arada genel olarak ekip şey şeyi takip etmek çok rahattı bence. Yani ekipte herkesin profesyonel bir deneyim olduğu için herkes profesyonel çalışmaya alışkın işte, termbase kullanmaya alışkın, termbase'i takip etmeye çalışıyor, terimlerle ilgili gruba bir şey yazıldığı zaman bununla ilgili çok güzel öneriler geliyor. O öneriler hızlı bir şekilde oylanıyor, kabul ediliyor, güncelleniyor vesaire ve hani şeyi görmek çok mümkün bence yani bu kendi çevirdiğim kısımdan ziyade editörlüğünü yaptığım kısımla ilgili bir yorumum. Ya gerçekten çeviriden ziyade yerleştirme olduğunu görmek mümkün ve bununla ilgili de şöyle bir şey var. Yani bu tez bakımından nasıl bir veri sunar emin değilim ama şunu söylemek mümkün zaten. Biraz daha kreatif özgürlük alanımız vardı ve ben hani özellikle editörlüğünü yaptığım kısımlarda mesela PT-3'ün dosyalarına falan denk geldim. Ve hani gerçekten orada o kreatif özgürlüğün sonuna kadar kullanıldığını görmek de hoşuma gitti.

Onun dışında kendi açımdan değerlendirsem, kendim çevirdiğim kısımları değerlendirsem, mesela ben terim bulmayı çok severim oyunlarda ve o yüzden gelen terimlerde gerçekten karşılık bulurken çok eğlendim. Referansımızın olmaması ve işte atıyorum oyun oynamamız gerekmesi, oyunla ilgili videoları izlemememiz gerekmesi, işte oyunun wiki, vesaire varsa bakmamamız gerekmesi işi tabii ki zorlaştırıyor. Ama sonuçta bağlamından da belli başlı şeyler elde edebiliyoruz. Atıyorum mesela PT-4'ün çevirdiği bir kısım vardı ve orada işte oyundaki içki isimleri geçiyordu. Aslında hepsi gerçek hayattaki şeylere tekabül ediyormuş. Yani işte şeyden çıkıyor da işte, isimden çıkıyor.

Genel olarak bu tarz şeylerde, PT-4 mesela atıyorum bu terimlerin karşılığını bulmak için yardım istedi gruptan ve işte terimlerle ilgili bağlam açıklamasını da gönderdi işte oyun içinde geçen açıklamaları varmış bunların. Atıyorum onları gönderdi, yaklaşık işlevini çıkarmaya çalıştık. İsimden işte gerçek hayatta hangi alkölü çağrıştırıyor, bulmaya çalıştık ve mesela ona göre beyin fırtınası yaparak güzel şeyler ürettiğimizi düşünüyorum ben.

Onun dışında yer isimlerinde falan da gerçekten çok hoş şeylerle, çok hoş çözümler bulduğumuzu düşünüyorum ekipçe. Çünkü hepimize gelen farklı farklı karşılıklar vardı. Hatta bir kısmını sonrasında düzenleme aşamasını değiştirdik ve onların tutarlılığını sağlamak için uğraştık. Bunun için bir review tracker kullandık. Bu manuel bir review tracker'dı.

Yani işte şunları değiştirmemiz gerekiyor, not aldık. Sonrasında düzelti aşamasında herkes kendine düşen kısımda orayı kontrol etmeye çalıştı aslında. Sonrasında P-3 Xbench kullanmayı öğrendi tutarsızlıkları görmek için Xbench'te çıkan hataları da düzelttik en son. Hani evet şeyden dolayı planlama hatasından dolayı ve işte hepimizin normal işinde yoğun olmasından dolayı artı sonradan çıkan on yedi bin kelimelik sürprizden dolayı düzenlemeye zamanımız kalmadı ama zaten Xbench sayesinde o tutarsızlıklara ben gidebildiğimize inanıyorum.

Ama ben çevirilerimde genel olarak şey kullanmayı seviyorum. Biraz daha böyle özellikle oyunun onu gerektirdiğini düşünüyorsam biraz daha eski bir dil kullanmayı seviyorum ve bence Bastion birazcık bu dile müsait bir oyundu. Yani esprili bir yapısı

var evet. Ama işte yani bir felaket yaşanmış. Bastion'u onarmaya çalışıyorlar vesaire ve hani eski dünyanın kalıntıları muhabbeti falan da çok geçiyordu oyun metinlerinde.

O yüzden birazcık şey düşünüyorum. Yani biraz daha işte eski dünyadan kalan şeyleri bulmaya çalıştıkları için. İşte atıyorum bunların oyun metinlerine geçen bazı şeyleri vardı. İşte tanrıları, tapınakları, bunların muhabbetleri vesaire var. O yüzden kafamda dünya daha fantastik ve birazcık daha işte, yıkımın etkisiyle eskiyi arayan bir dünya olduğu için ben mesela şey kullanmayı falan tercih ettim kendi çevirilerimle. Atıyorum şu anda aklıma gelen ilk kelimeler, mesela “yegâne esef” dedik bir yere. Ve mesela burada hani işte pişmanlık vesaire kullanılabilirdi belki ama hani esef daha biraz daha eski kökenli bir kelime bence. O yüzden buraya daha iyi oturduğumu düşünüyorum.

Onun dışında işte böyle biraz daha eski Türkçe kelimelerde kullanmaya çalıştım kendi çevirilerimde mesela. Ve dediğim gibi şey benim hoşuma gidiyor, yani oyunun dünyasına baktığımızda bunun sırtımayacağına inanıyorsam biraz daha arkaik bir dil kullanmakta sıkıntı görmüyorum. Bununla ilgili şöyle bir ayrım var ama ses kaydı gittikçe uzuyor. Bununla ilgili şöyle bir ayrım var ama gerçekten dengeyi kurmak gerektiğini düşünüyorum bu konuda.

Çok fazla Arapça Farsça kökenli sözlük karıştırdığımızda bu sefer oyuncunun deneyimini de olumsuz etkileyebilecek bir şey bence. Tabii ki bunun dengesini kurmak çok önemli ve bununla ilgili belli bir şey yok. Yani kriter yok. İşte beş kelime eski kökenli kullanabilirsiniz vesaire gibi bir kriter yok. O yüzden burada inisiyatif birazcık da çevirmene ve sonrasında editörüne kalıyor tabi ki. Redaktörüne kalıyor ya da. O yüzden hani ben ama bu dengeyi ekipçe iyi sağlayabildiğimizi düşünüyorum. Yani yer yer çok modern kelimeler kullandığımız oldu. Yer yer dediğim gibi biraz daha arka iki kelimeler kullandığımız oldu. İşte mizah unsurlarını mümkün olduğunca korumaya çalıştığımız ve korumayı başardığımızı düşünüyorum.

Yani zaten gerçekten hani ekip arkadaşlarımın mizah anlayışından çok memnunum. Gerçekten çok böyle hani gördüğüm çevirileri okurken kendim eğlendim. Bu da hani ben de şey çünkü şey olarak okuyorum onu. Ben bir oyuncu olarak şu an bu metni oyun içinde görseydim beğenir miydim olarak bakıyorum ve gerçekten o kadar eğlendim ki özellikle bazı yerleri okurken. Hani bunların gerçekten oyun deneyimini zenginleştir,

zenginleştiren şeyler olduğunu düşünüyorum. O yönden çıkardığımız üründen memnunum.

Dediğim gibi yani .Xml dosyası ve Trados'un çıkardığı belalar olmasaydı biraz daha sorunsuz ve rahat bir süreç olabilirdi sanırım bizim için.

PT-3:

İlk başta bir konuştuk. Ne yapalım, çevirilerine edelim bilmem ne falan diye. İşte termbase ne zaman yaparız, işte hangi programı kullanırız bilmem ne. İlk başta Trados. Dedik tamam Trados'tan yapalım. Ondan sonra P-4 dosyaları bölüştürdü. Böyle kurayla çekmiş olduk şeylere çevireceğimiz dosyaları.

Kelime ağırlıkları hemen hemen aynıydı hepsinin zaten. Ondan sonra işte aynısını aynı şekilde kurayı bir de redaktör bir ve redaktör iki için yaptık. Normalde iki redaksiyon sürecimiz olur diye umuyorduk. Çeviri başlama sürecimize geçeyim. Herkes kendisi müsait olduğu zamanlarda işte biraz biraz yaparak çevirilerini tamamladı. Bu zamanlar tabii ki hepimizde çok rahat geçmedi. Onun dışında, terminoloji oluşturduk.

İlk şeylerde ilk çeviriye başladığımız, çevirileri yaptığımız dönemde farklı görüş belirttiğimiz noktalar oldu. İşte zaman çekimleri konusunda kaynağa mı uyalım yoksa hikâye anlatımı olduğu için geçmiş zamanda hani hikâye gibi mi anlatalım falan diye. En son dördümüz ortak karara varıp dedik hikâye anlatımı gibi olsun, geçmiş zaman olsun. Çünkü hani daha akıcı olduğunu düşündük Türkçede bunun.

Onun dışında termbase hazırlama sürecimizde de kreatif isimleri herkes kendi dosyalarında büyük oranda yani kendisi çevirdi. Kendisi karşılık buldu ama işte aramızda konuştuğumuz falan da çok şey oldu. Mesela diye bir kelime vardı. Ona PT-1'di yanlış hatırlamıyorsam. Sarmaşık elması demişti. Ben bağ meyvesi yapmıştım. Sonra işte aramızda konuşup bağ meyvesi olarak kalmasına karar vermiştik.

Önce bir kendi dosyalarımızın üstünden geçmemiz gerekti bu süreçte. Bu işte tutarsızlıkları falan filan. Yani aramızda konuştuğumuz kısmını en azından çözebilmek için.

Hani benim dosyalarım tamamen böyle diyalog metni tarzı şeylerden ibaretti ya da işte oyunun sonundaki işte bazı replikler bilmem neler hep böyle diyalog falandı bendeki şeyler. Hiç böyle, nasıl desem, sistemle ilgili bir dosya çıkmadı karşıma. Hani asıl oyunun, oyunun bel kemiği olan kısım benim dosyalarımında hiç yoktu. O yüzden bir düşündüm.

Ondan sonra fark ettik ki .xml dosyası meğerse yedi bin kelimelik bir dosyaymış ve biz bunu atlamışız. Trados'a dosyaları yüklerken direkt algılamadı. Yani algılamadı derken sıfır kelime olarak algıladı.

Kim müsaitse o gelip yapabildiği kadar yapıyordu. Bu şimdi yine konudan konuyu atlamış olacağım da daha sonra biz bu xml belgesine başlarken bulut tabanlı bir araca taşımayı önerdim projeyi. O yüzden Smartcat'te bir tane işte hesap açtım. Ondan sonra PT-2 arkadaşlarından, yazılımcı arkadaşlarından falan yardım alıp o dosyayı .xliff'e çevirdi. O şekilde ise Smartcat'e yükleyebildik onu.

Ondan sonra bu çevirisine başladık biz. Onda da hani kim vakit bulabiliyorsa o şey yaptı, devam etti. Bazen aynı anda iki kişinin falan dosyanın farklı yerlerinden devam ettiği de oldu hatta. Ben o dosyada ya yine çevir yaptım böyle çok kelime sayısı açısından büyük farklar yaşanmamıştır diğerleri yine, aramda ama ben birazcık daha şey tarafıyla ilgilenmeye başladığım için işte Terminoloji bankasını düzeltme, çeviri belleğindeki tutarsızlıkları düzeltme, yeni çeviri belleği oluşturma bilmem ne o tarz şeyleri yaptım. Manuel olarak zaten bu şey xml dosyasından çok fazla terim çıktığı için manuel olarak yaklaşık üç yüz, dört yüz tane terim ekledim ben şeye bizim terminolojiye.

Ondan sonra işte zaten bulut tabanlı bir ortama yüklediğimiz için projeyi birbiriyle aynı olan cümleleri vesaire görme şansımız oldu. Bunları ona göre düzenleyebildik. Ben dosyalar arası düzenlemelere bayağı uğraştım herhangi bir tutarsızlık yaşanmadığından emin olmak için. Çünkü yani birebir aynı cümlenin çok çok farklı çevrildiği yerler vardı ya da işte belli terimlerin gerçekten çok farklı kullanıldığı yerler vardı.

Concordance search olayını oturtabilmemiz çok rahatlattı bize. Smartcat'te onu çok şükür yani oturtabildik. Yani ne var başka anlatabileceğim? Şu an teslim yönergelerine bir daha bakayım. Ha programlar, çeviri araçları, kalite kontrol araçları, iletişim.

İletişim zaten genelde WhatsApp'tandı, onu söylemişim. Programlar, Trados kullandık başta. Ondan sonra Smartcat'e geçtik. Ondan sonra işte Smartcat'te ben terminolojiyi manuel olarak büyüttüm.

Başka düzenlemeler de yaptım. En son işte bu çevirileri bittikten sonra ben şey yaptım, dosyaların hepsini tek bir şeye toplayıp, tek bir yere toplayıp Xbench raporu aldım. Bu Xbench raporuyla birlikte ise gözümüzden kaçan bazı tutarsızlıklar çıktı. Mesela işte kod uyumsuzlukları, sayı uyumsuzlukları vesaire o tarz şeyler vardı. Onları düzelttik.

Yani en sonunda onu yaptık zaten. Çeviri sürecinde genel yaklaşımımız yani mümkün olduğunca doğal bir çeviri ortaya koymaya çalıştık. Bazı söz oyunları vardı kaynak metinde ve onları birazcık kaybedebildik. Hani mümkün olduğunca nasıl desem, bu hikâye anlatımının esprili yanını korumaya çalıştık ama yani yapamadığımız yerlerde oldu. Çünkü Türkçede bilmiyorum böyle işte çok şey olmuyor. Benim hoşuma gitmiyor açıkçası şeylerin çeviriye çok yansıtılması. Onun yerine atıyorum espriler yerleştirdik ya da işte ne bileyim, en fazla şey yaptık herhalde, bir yerine atıyorum bir terminoloji deneceği zaman bir kesme işareti tık falan, o tarz şeyler yaptık. Kesme işareti demişken, bu kesme işaretleri mevzusunu oldukça fazla tartıştık. İşte nelere kesme işareti getirelim, nelere getirmeyelim, neleri büyük harfle yazalım. Mesela Çocuk, Kid, zaten şey ana karakterimiz. Çocuk'a diye kesme işareti getirdiğimizde çok çirkin duruyordu. Sürekli tekrarlayan bir kelime olduğu için biz onu da kesme işareti kullanmamaya karar verdik. Aynı şekilde çekirdek için de çok fazla geçen bir kelime olduğu için kullanmamaya karar verdik.

Sonra yer isimlerine kesme işareti getirmeye karar verdik ama işte tür isimlerine getirmemeye karar verdik ya da işte çoğul isimler mesela Skyways'ti sanırım, gök yolları, onlara falan işte kesme işareti geçirmedi. Bu tarz şeylerin hepsini tek tek tartıştık aramızda ve yani bilmiyorum herkes çok iletişime açıktı, herkesin yaklaşımları çok uyumluydu, Çok güzel bir ekip çalışması olduğunu düşünüyorum ve bu işte genel yaklaşımımızdan sapan biri olmadı. Yani hepimizin çevirilerini yan yana koyduğumuzda bayağı şey, nasıl desem? Gayet uyumlu, gayet hani birbiriyle bir bütün oluşturabilen çeviriler ortaya koyduğumuzu gördük.

PT-4:

Güzel bir proje oldu ama çok fazla dolandırmadan direkt konuya geleyim. Başımıza gelenleri anlatmaya başlayayım.

Şu şekilde, bize iletilen birtakım dosyalar vardı. Bunları aldık. Dedik ki önce, hangi çeviri aracını kullanalım? Nasıl yapalım? İşte önce çeviriyi yapalım. Sonra ilk revizyonu yapalım. İkinci revizyonu yapalım diye plan oluşturduk kafamızda. Ondan sonra ben kendim bu görevi aldım. Dedim ki, arkadaşlar böyle dosyalar var. Bu dosyaların kelime ağırlığı birbirlerinden farklı. Ben bunları alayım. Her birini, işte Trados'a karar vermiştik. Trados'ta görüldüğü şekilde kelime sayılarını aldım. Her birini gruplandırımdım. Grup bir, grup iki, grup üç, grup dört diye dosyaları atadım bu gruplara.

Dedim ki siz bir, iki, üç, dört bunlardan bir sayı seçin. Onu ben size atılmış olayım. En son kalanını da ben yapayım. Grupları ben ayarladığım için adaletsizlik olmasın. Herkes bir seçtiler.

Ben de grup biri almış oldum. Bunu yaparken de benzer tipteki dosyaları benzer kişileri, yani aynı gruba koymaya çalıştım ki biraz da hani tutarlılık yakalayabilelim. Bunu yaptık ama şöyle bir sıkıntı vardı. Bazı, ya genelde dosyalar üç yüz, altı yüz kelime arasındandı ve o zaman Trados'ta görüldüğü kelime sayısına göre kişi başı ortalama beş bin beş yüz kelime gelecek şekilde gruplara atadım. Atadım ama üç tane, dört tane dosya vardı. Biz bunları çevirdik.

Bahsettiğimiz, yani planladığımız zaman da çevirdik bitti. Çevirdikten sonra, Trados'tan ben bunu çeviri dosyalarını aldıktan sonra bir kontrol edeyim dedim. Bu bir kelime gözükenler neydi diye. Bir baktım, Trados'ta bizde bunları çevrilecek göstermemişlerdi ama Excel dosyalarının içerisinde bunların çevrileceği bariz bir şekilde ortadaydı. Tam çevirimiz bitti derken, yani birkaç bin kelime falan daha çıkmıştı.

Sorun değil. Hemen toparladık ekibi. Dedik ki “Böyle böyle sıkıntı çıkıyor, biz cat tool değişimine gidelim.” Gittik. Smartcat'i ayarladık. Hemen onun üstesinden de geldik. Onun çevirisini de yaptık, bitirdik. Bir baktık bu .xml dosyası aslında bir kod dosyası ve bunun içerisinde çevrilmesi gereken şeyler var. Baktık epey bir şey çıktı. Gerçekten epey bir şey çıktı.

On yedi bin kelime civarında yanlış hatırlamıyorsam. Biz bunu nerede, nasıl düzenleyeceğiz bunu bulmaya çalıştık. Yazılımcı arkadaşlarımıza sorduk. Hani bunu bize çevrilebilir bir dosya halinde yapar mısınız şeklinde. Birtakım badireler atlattık bu konuda. Hani bayağı bir sıkıntıya girdik. Ama bir şekilde çözdük. Ve bu dosyanın çevirisini işte herkes elini taşın altına koydu. Bir şekilde yaptık tabii. Bunun için uzatma istemek durumunda kaldık. En son çeviriler yapıldı. Üzerine grupları değiştirerek revizyonlar yapıldı. Revizyonlar da bittikten sonra bunları Xbench'e aktarmak, işte QA'ini yapmak, dosyaları doğru düzgün geri alabilmek lazımdı. Bu konuda da işte birkaç yazılımcı arkadaştan rica ettik. Hani, direkt yapsınlar diye değil ama bize nasıl yapıldığını gösterebilirler şeklinde rica ettik.

Ve aramızda gerçekten bu konuyu hiç bilmemesine rağmen birdenbire bir gecede öğrenip bu konunun uzmanı olan arkadaşlar oldu. Konuyu kurtarmak için, projeyi kurtarmak için. Onun için birazcık hararetli bir süreçti bizim açımızdan. Ama gayet eğlendik.

Güzel bir şekilde de geldiğimizi düşünüyorum. Çünkü biz bunu yaparken şunu da eklemem gerekiyor. Çok sistematik de gittik aslında. Bir terminoloji bankası oluşturduk. Bu ilk yaptığımız çevirilerin üzerinden çeviri belleği oluşturduk. Profesyonel bir şey oldu ki bize verilen kaynakların sadece kaynaktan ibaret olduğunu düşününce altından iyi diye düşünüyorum. Umarım çalışmanızda da bol bol size veri vermişizdir efendim. Çok teşekkür ederim bu projeye, bizi kattığınız için.