

Detailed Proposal

The source text (ST) is an academic article, *Les prêtres et l'apiculture en France (XIXe siècle – début du XXe siècle)*, by Samuel Gicquel; it examines the relationship between beekeeping and Catholicism in 19th – early 20th century France. It was published in the 2021-22 issue of *Histoire & Sociétés Rurales*, a French peer-reviewed journal (Cairn, no date). The translation has been commissioned by the author; as most articles of this genre are published in English (Ferrari, 2021), the aim is to widen the readership to an international audience. The ST was originally published with an English version of the abstract so this will not form part of my translation. The target text (TT) will be published in the next issue of the UK-based *Environment and History*; an interdisciplinary journal which aims to unite international perspectives from the humanities and natural sciences (White Horse Press, no date). The issue will be available online and in print. Although any English-speaker could access the translation, as it is being published in a UK journal it will be written in British English, with specifically UK-based readerships in mind.

The purpose of the ST is to inform readers about how French priests have influenced beekeeping and to persuade them of the significance of this bond. Although aspects of this discussion are technical and the subject matter specific, the article remains accessible to anyone with an interest in the role religion plays in rural society. The ST therefore has multiple target audiences: researchers and students with relevant knowledge, and an educated public. The same applies to the TT, although the anglophone identity of its multiple audiences means it functions additionally to impart foreign knowledge and ensure its unfamiliar context is comprehensible to its readers. Unlike the ST, this element could be

part of what attracts readers to the translation, whether specialists or members of the public interested in the country and its culture.

Faced with multiple functions and target audiences, Vermeer's *Skopostheorie* is a natural choice for the overall translation strategy, providing an appropriate flexibility to "write in a way that enables your text/translation to function in the situation in which it is used and with the people who want to use it and precisely in the way they want it to function" (Nord, 1997). When making translation choices, this approach prioritises the (multiple) recipients, producing a TT that applies to specialists and laypeople alike whilst conforming to target genre expectations. Thus, conveying foreign subject matter in a universally comprehensible way. As the translation brief pertains to the author's own desire for a larger readership, *Skopostheorie* also recognises a TT as a secondary "offer of information" (1997) which cannot exist without the ST. Accordingly, fidelity will guide my translation choices as a secondary influence.

Anticipating several challenges I will encounter in the production of the TT, the first concerns the author's assumptions of readers' background knowledge. The ST is written for native French people, or francophones who have a clear understanding of the country's culture and history. As such, the author implicitly invokes elements of Catholicism and French history throughout the text. He also alludes to cultural references that will be unfamiliar to TT audiences, including historic features of French rural life such as the titular beekeeping-Priest. An "explicitness change" regarding cultural matter in the TT could therefore render such information explicit, where it was only implied in the ST. This solution is taken from Andrew Chesterman's seminal *Memes of Translation* (1997); I will use the translation strategies detailed therein to guide my annotations.

Although the ST is written in a formal, sometimes technical style, the author discusses the actions of the bygone priests in the simple past tense. In the French, this tense invokes a sense of literary nostalgia, but translating this will be challenging as it cannot be replicated grammatically in English. The TT could however compensate for this translation loss by “means other than those used in the ST” (Hervey and Higgins, 2002), perhaps through additional figurative language which could convey the connotations of the missing tense.

Staying with the past, the ST includes several potentially challenging quotes from 19th century sources. I will need to ascertain whether published translations of these passages already exist through library research and contact with the author. Otherwise, they could perhaps be translated into English from the equivalent period to convey the age visible in their style and tone. Comparison with an English academic article on rural life in Victorian England could provide a reference for 19th century English speak, as well as a broader model for academic writing conventions (Worth, 2018).

There is considerable specialist terminology used throughout the ST and researching their meaning in monolingual dictionaries and specialist textbooks will be logistically challenging. I have some prior knowledge regarding beekeeping and the author has offered help in understanding complex technical terms, however I acknowledge I will be particularly challenged by Catholic terminology as I have no prior experience. I have contacted the members of a French Cistercian abbey who will be a valuable verbal resource regarding Latin terminology and the role of the clergy.

Whilst providing technical detail, the author often draws on the semantic fields of nature and religion to describe and discuss advancements in beekeeping, thus weaving the subject matter into his prose. Choices regarding TT adjectives and figurative language will need to

be specific, or synonymous where an equivalent is not possible, to faithfully convey the author's writing style and interest the readerships, as per the TT function.

Further challenges will inevitably arise throughout the actual 'problem solving' of the translation process (Herve and Higgins, 2002) and a strict schedule will be crucial to completing this translation by the deadline, as detailed below.

Proposed Project Schedule

Date	Action	Running total of words translated
25/01/23 – 24/02/23 (27/01/23)	Draft 2000 words of ST, minimum 6 annotations. (500 words p/w – between 70 – 100 words per day). Research ST terminology and build glossaries. Use parallel texts to check form conventions/TL expectations. Check style conventions of publication journal.	Page 1-13 of ST word doc.
24/02/23	First supervisor meeting. Look at draft translation.	2000
24/02/23 – 24/03/23	Translate further 2000 words with annotations.	

24/03/23	Second meeting. Look at improved draft of same section.	4000
24/03/23 – 25/05/23	Translate further 2000 words plus annotations. Write draft preface. Revise second section.	
25/05/23	Third meeting. Look at draft preface.	6000
25/05/23 – 12/06/23	Translate final 2000 words and annotations. (Approx. 120 words per day). Rework draft preface.	
12/06/23	Final meeting. Look at improved draft preface and annotations. Final supervisor advice. Begin revision of remaining sections.	8000
03/07/23	Finish revision. Begin final word-processing. Begin proofreading.	
12/07/23	Binding.	
18/07/23	Submit project electronically.	
19/07/23	Formal submission deadline.	

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Reference List

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