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The Reference to Absence in the English Sequences *no* + Noun and in the Sequences *pas de* + Noun and/or *aucun* + Noun in French

Odniesienie do nieobecności w angielskich sekwencjach *no* + N
i w sekwencjach *pas de* + N i / lub *aucun* + N w języku francuskim

INTRODUCTION

This paper shall address the issue of the English sequences 'No + countable noun in the singular' (No + N-ø) and 'No + countable noun in the plural' (No + N-s), and some of their possible translations in French, namely *aucun* or *pas de*, followed by a noun either in the singular or in the plural[1]. As shown in Valérie Bourdier & Agnès Leroux (2014), the two structures, No + N-ø and No + N-s are not interchangeable. This analysis will proceed from a data-driven approach, quoting examples taken from a parallel corpus composed of contemporary novels written in English and of their translations into French. After a synthetic quantitative presentation of the correspondences and a linguistic analysis of the French markers, the inquiry shall focus on contextual and discursive parameters that may enable us to account for the sequence chosen in the French translation. Some of the parameters

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[1] However, the reader should be aware that the sequence *aucun* + N-s has practically disappeared in contemporary French.

that govern the choice of *aucun* or *pas de*, followed by a noun either in the singular or in the plural will then be unveiled.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE DATA

We collected our data mainly from the contemporary part of a digital parallel corpus developed at Paris-Est Créteil University called CODEXT. In the following paper, the source of an example is given only when it is not CODEXT. As already mentioned in the introduction, particular attention will be given to the patterns *Pas de + N* and *Aucun + N*, when they are resorted to for the translations of No + N-s or No + N-ø.

The following two tables illustrate the distribution of the translations found throughout the first seventy-two occurrences of the corpus, and highlight the fact that there is no immediately identifiable system of correspondences.

Table 1. *No* + N-ø, singular determination in English

Markers in French	Number of examples	CONTRAST
Pas de + N-Ø	19	*There was **no recognizable signature**, and it was untraceable.* *Il n'y avait **pas de signature** reconnaissable et les ondes étaient impossibles à localiser. (JLC, TCG)*
Pas de + N-s	3	*I don't ask Miss Leefolt no questions about it and Miss Leefolt don't offer **no explanation**.* *Je pose pas de questions à Miss Leefolt et Miss Leefolt me donne **pas d'explications**. (…, TH)*
Aucun + N-Ø	21	*There is **no crime** to arrest him for.* *Il n'a commis **aucun délit** qui puisse justifier une arrestation. (JLC, TCG)*

Table 2. *No* + N-s, plural determination in English

Markers in French	Number of examples	CONTRAST
Pas de + N-Ø	2	*(…) But there were **no watchers**.* *Mais il n'y avait **pas de passant**.*
Pas de + N-s	18	*(…) There were **no tourists** this time of year.* *A cette époque de l'année, il n'y avait **pas de touristes**.*
Aucun + N-Ø	9	*(…) There were **no photographs** of them in the house.* *Il n'y avait même **aucune photo** d'eux dans la maison.*

The distribution of the seventy-two translations tends to indicate that the criteria we brought out in the analyses of No+N-s and No+N-ø are not sufficient to account for the phenomena at stake in translation. Here are the main significant figures over these seventy-two sentences (these figures are only tendencies, for the sample is very limited):

Table 3. Distribution of the translations in French

72 sentences		English *No*	French	
	N-Ø	60%	71%	Aucun: 42%
				Pas de: 29%
	N-s	40%	29%	Pas de: 29%

As a consequence, we will lead an in-depth investigation into the constructions that make up our corpus in order to shed light on the reasons for this lack of correspondence when referring to absence.

Our study will open up with a linguistic analysis of the similarities and differences between *pas de* and *aucun*. This first theoretical comparison will then be investigated taking into account our conclusions about the sequences No+N-s and No+N-ø, and confronted with contextual parameters.

2. *AUCUN* OR *PAS DE*?

When, in a language, there are two exactly equivalent constructions or structures to refer to the same event or element, the assumption is that one of them is progressively abandoned. It follows that *aucun* and *pas de* in French have to present different usages and different contexts of usage.

We will first remark on a syntactic feature: the grammatical scopes of *no* in English and *aucun* in French are nouns, when *pas de*'s scope is the predicative relation (except in a noun phrase such as *pas de corps, pas de délit*):

(1) *I don't ask Miss Leefolt no questions, she don't offer **no explanation***[2].
    Je pose pas de questions à Miss Leefolt et Miss Leefolt <u>*me donne*</u> ***pas d'explications*** (corpus CODEXT).

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[2] The authors are aware that in example (1) the negation structures are non-standard English, but they nevertheless chose to keep the utterance and to concentrate on the singular or plural determination of the noun after *no*.

The second clause of the French utterance is structured as follows:

PAS [< Miss Leeflot – *donner des explications* >]

When in the following dyad:

(2) **No man** *ever troubled me as much as Christian Grey.*
      Aucun homme <u>ne m'a troublée</u> *autant que Christian Grey* (corpus CODEXT).

The French utterance is structured as follows:

< *AUCUN* [*homme*] – *me troubler autant que Christian Grey* >

The grammatical scope of *aucun* is the noun *homme*, for *aucun* is a determiner in those instances.

Their not having the same syntactic scope might account for the fact that *pas de* cannot determine a noun phrase in a grammatical subject position, which *aucun* does in (2). The difference in grammatical scope might induce a difference in meaning.

2.1. Theoretical reflexion on *pas de*

If, as Antoine Culioli (1990) demonstrates, *pas* marks a scanning operation over the two possible values of a predicate (positive or negative), the meaning construed by the sequence *pas de*+N-s might be compared to those of *No*+N-s, which we have described in Bourdier and Leroux (2014). It might be hypothesized that *pas de*-N corresponds to *No*+N-*ø* and marks a scanning operation over the properties which would allow to define a notion (qlt(qnt)). *Pas de*-Ns would then translate No+N-*s* and mark a scanning operation over possible occurrences of a notion (qlt/qnt).

This hypothesis corroborates the syntactic scope of *pas*, as we show in:

PAS [< Miss Leefolt – *donner **des** explications* >].

However, it should not be omitted that *pas de* is made of two words, and that *de* does not occur in the affirmative sentence, *des* being used instead (*Miss Leeflot me donne des explications*).

2.2. Theoretical reflexion on *aucun*

Aucun has a double status: it is part of the negative structure in French in the form of a *forclusif* (Milner, 1979), just like *pas*, and it may also take the form of a pronoun. It used to have a positive meaning as late as up to the 19th century.

In her seminal article, Christina Heldner (1992) shows that contrary to what is traditionally put forward about pairs of sentences such as (3) *La police n'a arrêté aucun suspect* and (4) *La police n'a pas arrêté de suspects*, the sequences *pas de* and *aucun* in French are not equivalent.

According to Heldner, in (3) *aucun* is open to two different interpretations:
– the first interpretation involves a limited number of suspects, among whom none were arrested;
– the second interpretation does not presuppose the existence of one or several people suspected by the police.

Example (4) can only receive the second interpretation.

According to this analysis, the synonymy between these two sequences is thus partial.

For this reason there are cases in which substituting *aucun* for *pas de* is clearly unacceptable, for instance in (5):

(5) *La tourmente n'épargne aucun secteur de l'industrie.*
(5') *La tourmente n'épargne pas de secteur de l'industrie.*

Aucun secteur de l'industrie refers to a definite set of elements. *Pas de* may not be used in this case.

In Bourdier and Leroux (2014), we have demonstrated that $No + N\text{-}\o$ is more likely to apply to a generic set of elements, related by their properties or notional identity. In this case, the scope of the negation is an open set of elements. If we follow Heldner's hypothesis, it should translate as *pas de N-s* or *aucun*. And No+N-s, which applies to a definite set of elements (Bourdier and Leroux, 2014), should translate as *aucun* only. This correspondence would set aside several categories of our corpus.

What is more, Heldner's analyses do not allow us to draw a distinction between *pas de* N-s and *aucun* N when they both apply to an open set of elements.

All these questions should induce us to inquire into all the correspondences and to include in our analyses the functioning of the markers themselves, and not only their scopes. In her article, Heldner mentions the scope of *aucun* and *pas de*, in terms of open or closed set of elements, but she does not mention the way they operate on the sets of elements. We hypothesize that their differentiation lays in their respective functioning.

Part three below is an in-depth analysis of this first, very schematic distinction between *pas de* and *aucun* with a detailed analysis of our contrastive corpus.

3. TRANSLATIONS WITH *PAS DE*: IN SEARCH OF PROPERTIES

In Bourdier and Leroux (2014), we determined that the sequence *No + N-s* referred to a finite set of elements, located relative to a specific situation. The absence is considered relative to a particular class of elements within a specific space-time frame. Beyond the potential differences between these elements (beyond heterogeneity), all of them can eventually be regarded as equivalent since they all negate the predicate. We also concluded that the sequence *No + N-ø* refers to the absence of any element having the properties of the notion referred to, which means that this absence is considered relative to an unlimited class of elements.

The instances of translation of *No + N-ø* with *pas de*-Ns being particularly scarce (7%)[3], we are going to set aside this part of the corpus for the time being. Three patterns will be under scrutiny, as exemplified in Table 4:

Table 4. *No* translated with *pas de*.

No + N-s > *pas de* -Ns	(7) *We are pretty sure he had no gadgets on him.*	*Nous sommes tout-à-fait certains qu'il n'avait pas de gadgets sur lui.*
No + N-s > *pas de* + N	(8) *No bodies, no complaints.*	*Pas de corps, pas de délit.*
No + N-ø > *pas de* + N	(9) *And when I laugh (...), he informs me that Missoura is a magical place, the most beautiful in the world, no state more glorious.*	*Et quand je ris (...), il m'informe que le Missoura, avec l'accent, est un lieu magique, le plus beau du monde, qu'il n'y a pas d'État plus magnifique que le sien.*

Close observation of the English utterances in Table 4 confirms our conclusions about the sequence *No + N-s*(s):
– In (7), *We're pretty sure he had no gadgets on him*: some specific gadgets were expected by the speaker;
– In (8), *No bodies, no complaints*: some complaints were expected by the speaker after a killing, but they could not be made;

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[3] See Table 3 in this article.

– In (9), *No state more glorious*: any element with the property STATE, the scope is not limited to some states.

All the translated sequences will be analysed through an inter-language and an intra-language contrastive study.

3.1. *No* N-s > *pas de* N or *pas de* N-s?

This pair of utterances with their translations shows that in almost the same syntactic environment No+N-*s* can translate differently:

– *pas de*-Ns in (10)
– *pas de*-N-Ø in (11).

Table 5. *No*+N-s translated with *pas de*

No + N-s > pas de + N-s	(10) *One bedroom, two single beds, not too hard, nice and springy. One sitting room. Everybody signs the register here.* **No funny names**, *I tell them. People get lost, I got to know who they are. So that's her name, right? Abbott? Over.'* *(The Constant Gardener, John Le Carré)*	*Tout le monde signe le registre, ici. Et* **pas de pseudos**, *je leur dis. Si les gens se perdent, je dois savoir qui c'est. Alors, c'est bien son nom, Abbott ? (La Constance du jardinier, John le Carré, 2001,* translated *by Isabelle Perrin)*
No + N-s > pas de + N-ø	(11) *Needing to distract himself, Woodrow embarked on an energetic study of the church windows. Male saints, all white,* **no Bluhms**. *Tessa would go ballistic. (The Constant Gardener, John Le Carré)*	*Eprouvant le besoin de se changer les idées, Woodrow se lança dans une étude appliquée des fenêtres de l'église. Des saints, tous mâles, tous blancs,* **pas de Bluhm**. *Tessa aurait piqué une crise. (La Constance du jardinier, John le Carré, 2001, translated by Isabelle Perrin)*

In utterance (10), there are two people with one name each, which allows for the preconstruction of a definite set of two names. In such a case in French, we may choose between the singular and the plural. In coherence with contextual parameters, the translator chose the plural, for this utterance is preceded by the mentions of *signatures* and *register*, which construe at least two names.

However, the list of names is not actual yet, it is only expected: *pas de* construes a kind of **a negative potential actualization,** over the expected set of names. It is an order for each of them not to write a funny name. Besides, if the names had been written already, the speaker could have said: *they are **not** funny names / Ce ne sont pas **des** pseudos*. As already mentioned in this paper, *pas de* is made of two words, and *pas*'s scope is the verb, *de*'s scope is the noun; *de* does not construe occurrences as would *des*.

The following substitution might shed light on the sequence *pas de*, even though it is not acceptable:

*(...) Everybody signs the register here. **Not funny names**, I tell them. People get lost, I got to know who they are.*

*Tout le monde signe le registre, ici. Et **pas des pseudos**, je leur dis. Si les gens se perdent, je dois savoir qui c'est.*

With the use of the determiner *des*, *pas des pseudos* construes a **negation of identification**: *they are not funny names*, and means that among existing occurrences, the names actually written down on the register are not to be considered as FUNNY NAMES. They are something else, *real names* for example, because they do not display the right properties to be identified as *funny names*.

When *pas **de** pseudos* **rules out the possibility of existence** of fictitious names. In other words, it is impossible to select any occurrences within the notional domain FUNNY NAMES. They have to be *names*, as confirmed by the context: *So that's her name, right? Abbott?*

In sentence (11), *No + N-s* is translated as *pas de* followed by a noun in the singular:

(11)   *Needing to distract himself, Woodrow embarked on an energetic study of the church windows. Male saints, all white,* **no Bluhms**. *Tessa would go ballistic.* (*The Constant Gardener*, John Le Carré)

Eprouvant le besoin de se changer les idées, Woodrow se lança dans une étude appliquée des fenêtres de l'église. Des saints, tous mâles, tous blancs, **pas de Bluhm**. *Tessa aurait piqué une crise.* (*La Constance du jardinier*, John le Carré, 2001, translated by Isabelle Perrin)

In English, as we concluded before, the pattern No+N-s marks **a scanning operation over all the silhouettes** represented on the windows, a definite set, united by one property only, they are not part of the generic class of elements tagged *BLUHM*, meaning they are not black.

As utterance (11) refers to several silhouettes to be observed on glass-stained windows, it might be hypothesized that in French (?) *pas de Bluhms* would be an acceptable utterance in this context. However, if *pas de* negates the possibility of existence, the plural determination on *Bluhm* would construe an expected set of elements and *pas de* their inexistence, when in fact it is the absence of one property that is foregrounded. Conversely, in (10) the singular on *pseudo* in French would be adequate for an already written list, if somebody was looking for the property PSEUDO among actual names, for example. *Pas de* blocks the validation, the actualisation, of the **properties** related to the noun.

We could, nevertheless, hypothesize that in French, the pattern *pas de* N-*ø* construes the impossible spotting out or individuation of **one character displaying the property** *be black*. None of them has the property *be black*.

Pas construes a rejection of the validation of the predicate and *de* a reference to properties, the absence of which causes the rejection: the combination of these two markers results in the non-existence either of a property or of elements with expected properties that would make them representative items of their class.

3.2. *No+*N-ø translates as *pas de* N-ø

This conclusion about the construed meaning of *pas de* with a plural should apply to the sequence in the singular too. *Pas d'état plus magnifique que le sien* should negate the **possibility** of existence of a more glorious state in the United States:

Table 6. *No+*N-ø translated with *pas de* N-ø

No + N-ø > *pas de + N*	(9) *And when I laugh (...), he informs me that Missoura is a magical place, the most beautiful in the world,* **no state more glorious.**	*Et quand je ris (...), il m'informe que le Missoura, avec l'accent, est un lieu magique, le plus beau du monde,* **qu'il n'y a pas d'État** *plus magnifique que le sien.*

The sequence *No + N-ø* refers to the absence of any element having the **properties** of the notion referred to. However, this utterance construes the expectancy of one state only, to eventually negate its possible actualization. The substitution of *pas de* with *pas un*, singular indefinite article in French, will foreground this meaning:

(9') *Et quand je ris (...), il m'informe que le Missoura, avec l'accent, est un lieu magique, le plus beau du monde,* **qu'il n'y a pas un État** *plus magnifique que le sien.*

This is the meaning construed in the following translated utterances:

(12) *There was a snake that had three mouths, one on top of the other, and another that seemed to have* **no mouth** *at all.*
       Il y avait un serpent à trois mâchoires superposées, un autre qui semblait n'avoir **pas de mâchoire** *du tout* (corpus CODEXT).

(13) **No bathtub, no sink** *(except in the kitchen).*
       Pas de baignoire, pas de lavabo *(sauf dans la cuisine)* (corpus CODEXT).

In each case, one item would suffice, as emphasized by *at all* and *du tout* in (12). However, it is the absence of the properties normally displayed by the expected item that is predicated: In (12), the beast has nothing which looks like a mouth (in this context the possibility is open for more than just one mouth), and in (13) there is no element in the house displaying the properties of *sinks* or of *bathtubs*.

We will inquire deeper into the meaning construed by *No N* with translations with *aucun*.

4. TRANSLATIONS WITH *AUCUN*-N:
IN SEARCH OF OCCURRENCES

As exemplified in Table 1 and 2 in this paper, *aucun N* may be the translation of either *No + N-ø* or *No + N-s*. The co-existence of these two possibilities raises the issue of the criteria to translate two different structures in English with the same marker in French.

Table 7. *No +*N-s translated with *aucun*

No + N-s > Aucun + N	(14) **No druids** ever came near the Dancers.	**Aucun druide** ne s'approchait jamais des Danseurs.
No + N-ø > Aucun + N	(15) *As I stepped through the bar I saw a man setting up a video camera on a tripod next to the bailiff's desk.* <u>There was **no network symbol** on the</u> camera or the man's clothes.	*Je venais de passer devant la barre lorsque je vis un type installer une caméra vidéo sur un trépied, près du bureau de l'huissier. <u>Il n'y avait **aucun** logo de chaîne de télé</u> sur l'appareil ou sur le bonhomme.*

In English, the difference between the two sequences under scrutiny (*No + N-ø* and *No + N-s*) is their scope, a criteria we cannot use in French for, as Heldner (1994) demonstrates, *aucun* and *pas de* may both bear on an indefinite set of elements, and *aucun*'s scope may also be a definite one:

– *No druids ever came near the dancers*: a closed set, referring to the druids attending the ceremony.

– *No network symbol*: an open set, nothing with the property network symbol.

The substitution of *aucun* for *pas de* in (14) will highlight the meaning construed by *aucun*:

(14') **Pas de druide ne s'approchait des danseurs.*

We stated previously in this paper, that in a grammatical subject position *pas de* may not replace *aucun*. However, it is not a simple matter of syntax but a matter of predication. With *aucun* the group referred to already **is considered to be already in existence**, in a form or another, closed or open set, whereas with *pas de* it still has to be **created**, either as a closed or an open set. That is the reason why only *aucun* may be placed in a position of grammatical subject determiner. As demonstrated earlier in this paper, *pas de*, as a consequence of being partly included in the verb group, predicates the absence of existence of the elements referred to.

A few manipulations of example (15) will further clarify this assumption:

(15)   *There was* **no network symbol** *on the camera or the man's clothes.*
        Il n'y avait **aucun logo de chaîne de télé** *sur l'appareil ou sur le bonhomme* (corpus CODEXT).
        (15a) *Il n'y avait* **pas de logo** *de chaîne télé sur l'appareil.*
        (15b) **Aucun logo** *de chaîne de télé* **n'apparaissait** *sur l'appareil.*
        (15c) ***Pas de logo** de chaîne télé* **n'apparaissait** *sur l'appareil.*

The first three French utterances are acceptable, whereas the fourth one is not. However, there is no significant difference in the scope of the marker between these four sequences including *aucun* or *pas de*. The significant feature is the use of *il y a* in the first two translations, which allows for the use of either one sequence or the other. The predication of existence is necessary to the use of *pas de* because one cannot negate an item over a predicated set of items that does not exist, as demonstrated in sentence (15c). As we have already said in this analysis, *aucun* used to have a positive meaning, which was quite close to that of *any* in sentences such as: *any man may say that* (…), and which is still in use in one expression in French: *d'aucuns diraient que* (…), meaning *some indefinite people linked by a common feature. Aucun* construes a selection of items that share at least one quality. In a negative sentence it means that among a group of identical items, either a closed or an open set, none is selected. We might hypothesize that *aucun* in French operates as a **scanning operator**.

5. *AUCUN* OR *PAS DE* – A COMPARISON OF LINGUISTIC OPERATIONS

This explanation, completely in accordance with Heldner's analysis (1992) shifts the distinction between *aucun* and *pas de* from their scopes to the operations they mark.

Table 8. Translation with *aucun*

(16) *He couldn't remember his parents at all. His aunt and uncle never spoke about them, and of course he was forbidden to ask questions.* **There were no photographs of them** *in the house.*	*Il ne se rappelait rien de ses parents. Son oncle et sa tante ne lui en parlaient jamais et, bien entendu, il n'avait pas le droit de poser de questions à leur sujet.* **Il n'y avait même aucune photo d'eux** *dans la maison. (Harry Potter, J.K. Rowling, 1997, translated by Jean-François Ménard.)*
(17) **There were no surprises in Gatlin County.**	*Le comté de Gatlin ne* **réservait aucune surprise.**

In both (16) and (17), the sequence *No + N-s* is translated with *aucun*. In French, it construes that the speaker has gone through all the elements which could have qualified either as a photograph in (16) or as a surprise in (17) and found none.

Even though it would be possible to translate these sentences with *pas de N-s*, without impairing their grammatical acceptability, their meaning would be different:

Table 9. *Aucun* replaced with *pas de*

(16') *He couldn't remember his parents at all. His aunt and uncle never spoke about them, and of course he was forbidden to ask questions.* **There were no photographs** *of them in the house.*	*Il ne se rappelait rien de ses parents. Son oncle et sa tante ne lui en parlaient jamais et, bien entendu, il n'avait pas le droit de poser de questions à leur sujet.* **Il n'y avait pas de photos d'eux** *dans la maison.*
(17') **There were no surprises** *in Gatlin County.*	*Le comté de Gatlin ne réservait* **pas de** *surprise.*

Pas de, either followed by a noun in the singular or in the plural, blocks the existence of the items referred to. However it is quite remarkable that in (16'), the noun should be plural, whereas in (17'), it is singular. In (16'), *pas de* blocks the access to the notional domain of photographs, referring to all the photographs expected in a family house, whereas in (17') it is the properties that are blocked, meaning, that everything that happens there is expected.

CONCLUSION

In English, *no* marks an impossible scanning operation either over a set of items defined in a space and time frame, with a noun in the plural, or over an open set defined according to properties, with a noun in the singular.

Although, in a linguistic monolingual study, Heldner (1992, 1994) shows that only *aucun* may bear either on a definite or on an indefinite lot, we have determined that in French, differentiating between these two markers depends on defining a different linguistic operation for each of them:

– a scanning operation for *aucun*;
– a blocking of validation for *pas de*.

We have further proved that the meanings construed by their respective operations agreed with their contextual environment.

Comparing languages through translation, as we did in this contrastive linguistic study, might shed new light on unsolved questions raised in monolingual linguistic studies.

However, this question should be further inquired into with a larger selection of utterances in the CODEXT corpus, as well as on comparable corpora. It would

allow us to test the conclusions we came to in this paper, would help confirm the tendencies we uncovered, and would open up new avenues of inquiry into the construction of negation over a noun in English and in French.

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ABSTRACT

This paper enquires into the field of negative noun determination in English and in French. It focuses on the English sequences 'No+countable noun in the singular' (No+N-Ø) and 'No+countable noun in the plural' (No+N-s), and some of their possible translations in French, namely *aucun* or *pas de*, followed by a noun either in the singular or in the plural.

The existence in English of the two sequences raises the question of the differences in meaning these two sequences convey and induces one to examine their French possible translations with *pas de* or *aucun*. The aim thus is to examine examples in which both constructions are grammatically allowed in English, in order to elucidate the process through which reference is construed, and to examine the similarities and differences in meaning in the French sequences resorting to *aucun* or *pas de*.

An analysis of each of the constructions will lead us to investigate the linguistic features, pertaining to sets of properties and occurrences, subjective and argumentative factors, which may or may not imply patterns of correspondences through translation. We will address these issues via the examination of translated examples taken from a parallel corpus made up of extracts from contemporary novels written in English after 1980 and of their translations into French.

In English, *no* marks an impossible scanning operation either over a set of items defined in a space and time frame, with a noun in the plural, or over an open set defined according to properties, with a noun in the singular.

We have determined that in French, differentiating between two markers depends on defining a different linguistic operation for each of them: a scanning operation for *aucun* and a blocking of validation for *pas de*.

We have further proved that the meanings construed by their respective operations agreed with their contextual environment.

Keywords: negation, noun determination, reference, meaning

ABSTRAKT

Niniejszy artykuł wkracza w dziedzinę uwarunkowań dotyczących połączeń rzeczownika ze znakiem negacji w języku angielskim i francuskim. Koncentruje się na angielskich ciągach "*No*+policzalny rzeczownik w liczbie pojedynczej" (No+N-Ø) i "*No*+policzalny rzeczownik w liczbie mnogiej" (No+N-s) i niektórych z ich możliwych tłumaczeniach w języku francuskim: *aucun* lub *pas de*, po którym następuje rzeczownik w liczbie pojedynczej lub w liczbie mnogiej.

Istnienie w języku angielskim takich dwóch sekwencji rodzi pytanie o różnice w ich znaczeniu i nakłania do zbadania ich francuskich możliwych tłumaczeń za pomocą *pas de* lub *aucun*. Celem jest zatem zbadanie przykładów, w których obie konstrukcje są gramatycznie dopuszczalne w języku angielskim, w celu wyjaśnienia procesu, za pomocą którego interpretowane jest ich odniesienie, oraz w celu zbadania podobieństw i różnic w znaczeniu sekwencji francuskich wykorzystujących *aucun* lub *pas de*.

Analiza każdej z konstrukcji doprowadzi nas do zbadania cech językowych, odnoszących się do zestawów właściwości oraz zdarzeń, czynników subiektywnych i argumentacyjnych, które mogą (lub nie) implikować poprzez tłumaczenie schematy zależności. Zajmiemy się tymi zagadnieniami, badając przetłumaczone przykłady zaczerpnięte z korpusu paralelnego złożonego z fragmentów współczesnych powieści napisanych po angielsku po 1980 roku i ich tłumaczeń na język francuski.

W języku angielskim *no* oznacza niemożliwą operację skanowania zarówno na zestawie elementów zdefiniowanych w ramie przestrzeni i czasu – z rzeczownikiem w liczbie mnogiej, jak i w otwartym zestawie zdefiniowanym według właściwości – z rzeczownikiem w liczbie pojedynczej.

Ustaliliśmy, że w języku francuskim rozróżnianie dwóch markerów zależy od zdefiniowania różnych operacji językowych dla każdego z nich: skanowania dla *aucun* i blokowania walidacji dla *pas de*.

Udowodniliśmy ponadto, że znaczenia interpretowane przez ich działania są zgodne z ich kontekstowym otoczeniem.

Słowa kluczowe: negacja, konstrukcje rzeczownikowe, odniesienie, znaczenie