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The *Gazette de Londres*: Disseminating news and exercising news management through translation

ABSTRACT

This article compares the contents and language of the preeminent English Restoration newspaper, the *London Gazette*, with its French edition the *Gazette de Londres*. Founded in 1665, and coming out twice a week, the *London Gazette* was the sole periodical newspaper in England from August 1666 to February 1688. Unquestionably successful, the *London Gazette* formed an integral part of Restoration life in the capital and beyond. The analysis of eleven numbers of both the English and French versions of the newspaper in the summer of 1669 shows that far from being a straightforward verbatim translation of its English counterpart, as has been previously thought, the *Gazette de Londres* presents some significant differences from the *London Gazette* both regarding layout and contents which shed light on news translation generally in the early modern period as well as news management in Restoration England.¹

Keywords: Newspapers; early modern; translation; *London Gazette*; news management

1. Introduction

From the second half of the sixteenth century English print news played an ever-increasing role in forming the English reader's knowledge and understanding of people, places, events and cultures.² With domestic news the information was generally supplied by native English speakers whilst with foreign news the information was not just based on the speech or written texts of English speakers living or travelling abroad, but also on the translation of manuscript or print news that had originally been written, for example, in French, Dutch, German, Spanish, Italian or Latin. Translation had a fundamental role in the dissemination of foreign, mostly European, news among the English reading public. In some cases, as with the one-sheet corantos of 1620 and 1621, the English texts were very close translations of foreign news publications.

However, the role of translation in English news was not one-way. English print news was itself translated into other languages. In the case of serialised news, *Le Mercure Anglois* (1644-1648) and *Nouvelles Ordinaires de Londres* (1650-1660), that were both published in London, contained not just news items written directly in French but also translations of news previously published in English (Frank 1961: 70-71; Peacey 2017: 243). These mid-century London-based foreign news publications were successful and in November 1666 yet another French-written news publication was published in London. Its name was *Gazette de Londres* and it continued publication until 1705 (Fabre 1991: 516). The *Gazette de Londres* was the officially authorised translation of the *London Gazette*, the sole periodical newspaper in England to run uninterruptedly from August 1666 to February 1688.³ The government-sponsored two-page publication contained not only domestic and foreign news but also

¹ The research for this article was in part funded by a PRIN grant (Prot. 2015TJ8ZAS) from the Italian government.

² For studies on print news in Early Modern Britain, see Sommerville (1996), Raymond (1996, 2003), Boys (2011), Brownlees (2014), Facchinetti et al (2015). For broad-ranging volumes on news in a European context, see Pettegree (2014) and Raymond & Moxham (2016).

³ Initially called the *Oxford Gazette* when it was founded in 1665, it became the *London Gazette* in 1666 and is published up until the present day. For studies on *The London Gazette*, and more generally on news management in Restoration England, see Muddiman (1923), Walker (1950), Fraser (1956), Sutherland (1986), Raymond (2003: 323-391), Fries (2015), Peacey (2016).

government announcements and, from 1671 onwards, regular commercial advertisements. Unquestionably successful, the *London Gazette* formed an integral part of Restoration life in the capital and beyond.

In my paper I shall examine the *Gazette de Londres* with regard to its status as authorised translation of the *London Gazette*.⁴ Through an examination of 11 numbers of both the English and French versions of the paper in the summer of 1669 I shall consider the extent to which it can be considered a “verbatim translation” (Fraser 1956: 51) or “a straightforward translation” (Peacey 2017: 250). Where a close translation does not occur I shall not only identify what it is substituted by but suggest why this other mode of translation should have been adopted. My study aims to contribute to the recent growing interest in the translation of early modern news though as regards English news Slaughter’s following comment is still pertinent: “although specialists know that the gazettes and journals of the early modern period contained mainly foreign news, the movement of this news across linguistic and political boundaries remains very little studied” (2012: 256). Despite work by Barker (2013, 2016), Brownlee (2014: 36-42), forthcoming), McLaughlin (2015), Peacey (2017), Raymond (2013: 406-412) and Valdeón (2012) our understanding of how and why news translators translated as they did is still scratchy.⁵ One major methodological issue impeding wide-ranging understanding of the question is the relative scarcity of clearly matching source and target texts. Occasionally the foreign source text is found in the same publication as the translated text, and sometimes it is possible to trace it through metatextual referencing, but in the vast number of cases where the news is either a translation into or out of English our understanding of the processes of translation is based on rare metatextual comment and other contemporary sources regarding professional practice.⁶ In this respect the *Gazette de Londres* is of the highest importance in the history of English news since it was the longest-running news publication whose content was primarily and explicitly based on the translation of another extant news publication. As such it merits study not only for what it tells us about the global and local translation strategies adopted by the official translator but how the process of translation reconfigured the original news publication. In using the terms ‘global’ and ‘local’ strategies, I follow Gambier (2010) who defines the former as the translator’s “planned, explicit, goal-oriented procedure or programme, adopted to achieve a certain objective” (2010: 412) in contrast to ‘local’ strategies that are the procedures or techniques adopted in achieving the global strategy.⁷ Through this analysis, I aim to further our understanding of not just news translation but also news management in the first years of the Restoration.

2. *Gazette de Londres*

The *Gazette de Londres* was printed and published in London and even if mid seventeenth-century news scholarship is hindered by “extremely perplexing issues relating to the intended and actual audiences for [...] gazettes and mercuries” (Peacey 2017: 247) we can assume that the newspaper was not only addressed to the French equivalent of the English readership — merchants, gentlemen and all those interested in court affairs — but also English readers

⁴ The fact the *Gazette de Londres* had primarily a political purpose is emphasised by the fact that according to Lord Arlington, Williamson’s fellow Secretary of State, the French translation of the *London Gazette* “always turned to loss” (Handover 1965: 20).

⁵ Dooley (2010, 2016), Raymond (2012), Boerio (2016) also examine news flows across early Modern Europe though their studies are more concerned with the concept of textual borrowings than translation.

⁶ For an example of a news pamphlet containing both source and target text, see *A Relation of the Late Horrible Treason, intended against the Prince of Orange* (19 February 1623).

⁷ See also Chesterman (2016: 85-114) for characteristics and terminological issues relating to the concept of translation strategies.

living in Europe who did not have access to the *London Gazette* as well as to all foreigners who read and communicated in French. As Dugard, the probable editor of *Nouvelles ordinaires de Londres*, wrote in the first number of the publication, French was “la langue qui s’étend et s’entend dans toute l’Europe” (Fabre 1991: 516). Thus, for example, it is not surprising, that a Tuscan envoy living in London occasionally enclosed the newspaper with his weekly diplomatic correspondence to the Grand Duke of Tuscany at the end of the seventeenth century.⁸

For the first five years of its publication, the *London Gazette* was formally edited by Charles Perrott (Fraser 1956: 49; Fabre 1991: 516) although the person principally responsible for the running of the English newspaper and its French translation was Joseph Williamson, Under Secretary of State in the Restoration government (Handover 1965: 14). He maintained overall control of the two newspapers until his replacement as Secretary of State in 1679 (Fabre 1991: 516). The translation into French of the *London Gazette* was carried out from 1666-1678 by M. Moranville (Grey 1769: 149-173; Fraser 1956: 51; Fabre 1991: 516). We have details of this as a result of a very interesting parliamentary exchange in 1678 relating to a translated piece of news in the *Gazette de Londres*. The exchange took place at the height of the Popish Plot when anti-Catholic sentiment was running very high in London and the country as a whole. As Coward writes, “Letters of the time are full of rumours that the French and Spanish had landed, that ‘night riders’ had been seen, that Catholics were arming themselves secretly, that bombs had been placed under churches” (1994: 327). In this febrile atmosphere Moranville was questioned by parliament regarding his translation into French of a news item in the *London Gazette* regarding the Plot.

The Speaker.] There has been a great, and supposed wilful mistake, in the translation of the *Gazette* into *French*, viz. “that the Papists, *refusans de se conformer a la Religion Anglicane*”, “refusing to conform themselves to the Religion of *England*,” &c. “are commanded to go out of town,” without mentioning the present Plot, &c. to be the occasion, as is in the King's Proclamation recited, &c. You are sent for, to know how this has been foisted in different from the Proclamation.

In the questioning Moranville admitted his mistake — an “omission by inadvertency” (Grey 1769: 7 November) — but his confession was not enough to prevent accusations of conspiring on behalf of the French against the Crown. The parliamentary cross-examination finished with an order “to search the Translator's house for Papers” (Grey 1769: 7 November).

How the story eventually finished is not known, but what is clear is how seriously members of the British parliament took this errant translation of Moranville's. In their view this was not some mere translator's slip leading to partial loss in the transmission of knowledge but rather an example of how through translation the contents of the source text could be reconstrued and manipulated. The manipulation, however, did not lie in the translation into French of the English text but rather in what was not translated. By not translating that part of the *London Gazette* that reported the ongoing Popish Plot and King's Proclamation expelling the Catholics, Moranville's translation appeared in the view of Parliament's Speaker to make “a presumption amongst strangers, that persons may be under persecution here for Religion only” (Grey 1769: 7 November).

In the light of Moranville's questioning in 1678, in my following analysis I aim to see if elsewhere we also find cases of translation strategies that give new, different meanings to the source text. There are no extant copies of the *Gazette de Londres* of 1678, but a run of

⁸ Francesco Terriesi, envoy to the Grand Duchy of Tuscany in London, enclosed twenty copies of the *Gazette de Londres* with his diplomatic post back to Florence between 1689-1690 (Archivio di Stato di Firenze, Mediceo del Principato, *filza* 4246).

eleven numbers of the French newspaper in the summer and early autumn of 1669 has survived. In my examination of these translations I shall assess the degree to which Moranville so translates the *London Gazette* that what is found in the *Gazette de Londres* can be considered manipulation. As Fabre (1991: 516) writes, “Le problème central pour la *Gazette de Londres*, que l'épisode Moranville mit en lumière, est celui de la fidélité de la traduction, et de la relation entre le texte anglais et français. Une étude comparative s'impose.”

3. *Gazette de Londres: Reconfiguration of the London Gazette*

The eleven issues I have examined run from 16 August to 20 September. The newspaper came out twice a week and each of the numbers consists of two small folio pages where the news in both the English and French versions is laid out in two columns on both recto and verso. The news is introduced by a dateline providing the barest information relating to the source and date of news (e.g. “Plymouth, August 27”, “De Plymouth, le 27 Aoust 1669”; “Rome, August 10”, “De Rome, le 10 Aoust 1669. N.S.”).⁹ The four columns of news range from 65-78 lines each, amounting in all to approximately 2,600-2,800 words. In each of the numbers news would originate from 8-13 different places though from each location it was possible to find news relating to towns and countries elsewhere in Europe. This was especially true with news arriving from some of the larger cities in Europe. Thus, a news dispatch headed by the dateline ‘Rome’, ‘Venice’ or ‘Paris’, could include news which had reached that particular news hub from much further afield.

The English news either regards shipping, court and government affairs or the king's hunting trip to the New Forest. The shipping news has the name of ports in the dateline (e.g. Plymouth, Falmouth, Weymouth), the court news is headed by “Whitehall” or “London” while the hunting trip includes “Southampton” in the dateline. The *London Gazette* almost always begins with at least one dispatch from a port and usually concludes the dispatches on the second page with news from London or Whitehall. The intervening dispatches do not appear to be arranged in any particular order either in relation to the date or location of the dispatch. Below the concluding dispatch on the second page, the English newspaper has a section entitled “Advertisements”, which contains government announcements and the occasional commercial advertisement giving details of the printer's other publications.¹⁰ The following table gives the datelines and position of the ‘Advertisements’ (called here ‘adverts’) of three numbers of the *London Gazette* (LG) and the *Gazette de Londres* (GDL)

[Table 1. Contents of *London Gazette* (LG) and *Gazette de Londres* (GDL) 30 August-6 September 1669]

The most obvious difference between the *London Gazette* and *Gazette de Londres* lies in the non-translation of the Advertisements section since not only are the government notices in the section not translated but neither are the English printer's occasional advertisements of other

⁹ *London Gazette* and *Gazette de Londres*, 2 September and 23 August 1669. In news publications of the period, the old Julian calendar and the new Gregorian calendar were respectively referred to as “*veteri Stylo*” (V.S.) and “*novo Stilo*” (N.S.).

¹⁰ Only after 1671 did commercial announcements advertising products and services come to be regularly included in this “Advertisements” section.

published works of his.¹¹ We can presume that Williamson had decided that such news was of little interest to the French-reading readership.

However, apart from this difference, Table 1 also shows that while the datelines, and hence the news, generally concur in the two versions of the newspaper there is not necessarily an exact correspondence. First of all, even if the news is the same, and with the same datelines, it is not necessarily always placed in the same order. Of the three separate issues in Table 1, only the publication of 6 September maintains exactly the same order of news in the two versions. Secondly, some datelines, and their respective news, in the *London Gazette* are not always present in the *Gazette de Londres* and vice versa. For example, the news datelined “Rome” in the *London Gazette* of 30 August is instead placed in the *Gazette de Londres* of 2 September while the news datelined ‘Whitehall’ in the French version of 30 August is not present at all in the English version of the same date nor in any of the other 11 numbers that were examined.

Furthermore, the layout of the *London Gazette* and the *Gazette del Londres* is slightly different. The London publication begins its news lower down on the first page, contains slightly more characters per line and has run-on datelines on the same line as the dispatch. This latter feature is different from the *Gazette de Londres* where the dateline is placed above the following dispatch and spatially separated from the previous news item. In general the amount of news is the same or only slightly less in the *London Gazette* to what it is in the *Gazette de Londres*. The most significant exception to this general practice is in the number of 26 August where at the bottom of page 2 the *Gazette de Londres* carries an extra 18 lines of news originating from Paris. This extra information more or less corresponds to the amount of space set aside for the “Advertisements” in the *London Gazette* of the same day.

A helpful methodological framework for understanding the modes in which the above aspects of the *London Gazette* news are reconfigured in the *Gazette de Londres* is found in recent studies on contemporary news translation (Conway and Bassnett 2006, Bielsa and Bassnett 2009, Schäffner 2012). The key concept to emerge in this research is that in modern day news translation the news editor and translator give absolute priority to domestication: “In news translation, the dominant strategy is absolute domestication, as material is shaped in order to be consumed by the target audience, so [it] has to be tailored to suit their needs and expectations” (Bielsa and Bassnett 2009: 10). As a result of this process of domestication the source text can be subjected to different modifications including “elimination of unnecessary information” and “change in the order of paragraphs” (Bielsa and Bassnett 2009: 64). In this respect the non-translation in the *Gazette de Londres* of the “Advertisements”, since the information was considered of little interest for the target audience, and the reorganization of the news dispatches in the French version conforms to present-day news translation procedures.

However, if we place this mode of reconfiguration of source text news within the context of seventeenth-century practice we see that it differs from what usually occurs in those publications where extant source and target texts have been identified. Thus, the first English corantos of 1620-1621, which were translations of Dutch and German corantos, kept the same order of dispatches (Dahl 1952: 33-41). It was in the English publisher’s interests to maintain the same order of news so as to impress upon English readers and English authorities that what was being sold was indeed the news already published in Dutch and German corantos. Likewise no parts of the source text were left untranslated on grounds of probable lack of interest for English readers. Some news was left untranslated but not because it lacked interest, but, on the contrary, it was considered too pertinent to English affairs. This was the news which in the Dutch and German corantos touched upon English matters and

¹¹ For example, on 16 September the *London Gazette* finishes with the advertisement of the printer’s “newly Publish’d, An exact Designe of the City of Candia, with all its fortifications, Rentrenchments, Galleries, Countermines, etc.”

which as a result of various English censorship regulations was deemed unpublishable (Brownlees 2014: 33).

In contrast, the reorganization of news content in the *Gazette de Londres* probably reflects the newspaper's position as government-sponsored publication. As such its news could be organised as wished. The *Gazette de Londres* was recognised as the official translation of the government-approved newspaper and its status would not have been affected by any internal reconfiguration of news previously published in its English counterpart.

4. *Gazette de Londres*: Translation of the *London Gazette*

In this section I examine the news content in the *Gazette de Londres* and what it can tell us about the translator's specific translation strategies. I make a broad distinction between 'close translation', which if not literal contains all the essential information of the source text, and 'manipulation' that incorporates what apparently are intentional changes altering the message in the text. However, in referring to 'manipulation' I agree with Denton who writes that "manipulation does not necessarily imply censorial, ideologically motivated intervention in the target text [...] but could also be an attempt on the translator's part to fill in gaps in his/her readers' knowledge by incorporation of explanatory glosses or direct domesticating substitution" (Denton 2016: 10). In accordance with this definition I distinguish below between cases of non-ideological and ideological manipulation.

4.1 Close translation

Much of the translation of the *London Gazette* is close. For example, this always occurs in the translation of shipping news originating in English ports. Typical instances of this are in (1)-(2) and (3)-(4):

- (1) *Deal, Aug. 23.* Here lately arrived in the *Downs* four ships from the *East-Indies*, and the 21 instant the *Maderas* from *Bantam*, whose appearance was the more welcome by reason of the hazard she was supposed to have run on her way home.
This day a Fleet of about 20 sail of Merchant ships outwards bound went out of the *Downs* in Order to their respective voyages.
(*London Gazette*, 26 August 1669)
- (2) *De Dele, le 23 Aoust 1669.*
Quatre Navires sont, depuis peu, arrivez des Indes Orientales aus Dunes: & un autre Vaisseau du nom de Madère, y arrive, aussi, de Bantam, le 21 de ce mois, dont l'Arrivée a été d'autant mieus reçue que l'on suppose qu'il a couru grand hazard à son retour. Une Flote d'environ 20 Navires Marchands, frette a pour les Pais étrangers est partie, aujourd'hui, des Dunes, pour prandre la route des Ports où ils doivent aller.
(*Gazette de Londres*, 26 August 1669)
- (3) *Plymouth, August 13.* Yesterday arrived here a *new England* ship bound hither from *Barbados*, and this day a ship of *Yarmouth* from the *Caribby Islands*, where they left all things in a peaceable and thriving posture.
(*London Gazette*, 19 August 1669)
- (4) *De Plymouth, le 13 Aoust 1669.*

Un Navire de la Nouvelle Angleterre arriva hier, de Barbade, où il avoit été frette pour ce Port; & un Vaisseau d'Yarmouth, qui vient des Isles Caribes, où il a laisse toutes choses en bonne & florissante posture.

(*Gazette de Londres*, 19 August 1669)

At a content level the above source and target texts contain the same information though the translation cannot be considered literal since in accordance with Chesterman's definition of literal definition the source texts are not "maximally close to the SL form, but nevertheless grammatical" (2016: 91). In the above examples the sentence units in both the source and target texts are the same in that they both respectively consist of 2 and one sentences but within the sentences there are alterations at a syntactic level. These changes include some of the categories set out by Chesterman (2016: 91) in his analysis of syntactic procedures in translation.¹² Thus, we find clause structure change where in both (2) and (4) the French begins with Subject unlike the English which begins with Adverbial.

4.2 Non-ideological manipulation

The close translation is also adopted in the translation of those European news items where the focus of the information is on matters unrelated to Great Britain and France. Manipulation occasionally occurs in these texts but its instances do not allude to any specific overarching ideological translation strategy. Thus, in comparison with source texts in (5) and (7) the translator in (6) and (8) provides extra detail about one matter while excluding another which must have been considered less newsworthy.

- (5) *Lisbonne, July 22*. This Court is much satisfy'd with the safe return of the Fleet which was employd under the Command of the Count *de Prado* to the Castle of *Angra* in the *Terceras* their passage thither was long and tedious, being kept at sea above 27 days, coming to Anchor in the Bay of *Angra* [...]
(*London Gazette*, 19 August 1669)
- (6) *De Lisbonne, le 22 Juillet 1669. N.S.*
Cete Cour est, grandemant, satisfaite de l'heureus retour de la Flote, qui ètoit emplooiée sous le Commandemant du Comte de Prado, pour conduire le Roi Don Alphone au Château d'Angra en l'Isle de Tercere, pour où aller il a emploie jusq'à 27 jours. En mouillant à la Baie d'Angra [...]
(*Gazette de Londres*, 19 August 1669)
- (7) *Madrid, Aug. 25*. The New Guards continue their Duty at the Palace, but the People of the Town complain of great Disorders, several Persons having been lately kill'd in the Streets, and many Robberies committed. The *Portuguese* Ambassador having taken his leave is returned home [...]
(*London Gazette*, 9 September 1669)
- (8) *De Madrid, le 25 Aoust 1669. N.S.*
Le nouveau Regiment des Gardes continue de faire sa fonction au Palais: mais les Habitans murmurent fort, a cause des excès des Soldats, plusieurs Personnes ayant été

¹² The categories are: "Literal translation; Loan,calque; Transposition; Unit shift; Phrase structure; Clause structure change; Sentence structure change; Cohesion change; Level shift; Scheme change". Chesterman, however, refers to these alterations as "strategies" since his use of the term 'strategy' corresponds to Gambier's 'local' strategy.

depuis peu, tüées dans les rues, & diverse vols s'erano commis de nüit.
L'Ambassadeur de Portugal aiant pris son Audience de congé s'en est retourné [...]
(*Gazette de Londres*, 9 September 1669)

We also find instances of added material presumably inserted for the benefit of French readers. In one instance the additional text regards specifically the names of French soldiers who had taken part in, and in some cases been killed, during the French attack of Turkish-held Candia.¹³ The long list of French names clearly had resonance with the French reading public but not with the English readers of the London version of the newspaper. In the other case the translator inserts the name of a French envoy (“Chevalier de Mariva, Premier Gentilhomme Ordinaire de Monseigneur le Duc d’Orleans, en qualité d’Envoie [...]”) who had been received at a function at the English court.¹⁴ Here too the additional information conveyed is only of interest for French readers.

In contrast, in the *London Gazette* of 6 September the last paragraph of a ship-news dispatch from Leghorn is not translated in the *Gazette de Londres*. Either it was not considered important or perhaps there was insufficient space in the French version.

4.3 Ideologically motivated manipulation

Occurrences of ideologically motivated manipulation occur in news dispatches datelined “London”, “Whitehall” and “Paris”. In these cases the translator adds words to the translation to underline a particular ideological point in the text. The additional material principally lets us see: a) how the English wish English matters to be perceived; b) how the English wish their reactions to French news to be perceived

4.3.1. How the English wish English matters to be perceived

English court news is sometimes embellished and rendered grander and more magnificent in the *Gazette de Londres*. For example, the Danish ambassador’s procession from Greenwich to Westminster via the Tower of London is described in greater, more grandiose detail in the French version. The celebratory, eulogistic description in the following French text has no parallel in the English newspaper.

- (9) C’est en ce magnifique Apareil que son Excellence fut conduit depuis la Tour par les rues de Londres, & de Westminster, remplies de fort beau monde aus fenêtrés, & d’une foule de people innombrable, jusqu’en l’Hotel
(*Gazette de Londres*, 19 August 1669)

The text has been added, as is also the case in the successive number of 23 August when once more the Danish ambassador’s visit is described. As with 19 August, in the French version of 23 August additional details enhance the magnificence of the Danish ambassador’s visit. In my opinion the intent behind the added text is political. The additional news regarding the ambassadorial visit underlines for the French-reading audience not just the importance of Anglo-Danish relations but the splendour of the English court. Through this additional text, the *Gazette de Londres* is being exploited to promote government policy for a foreign audience.

This political motivation may also explain the addition of “tristes” in (11). The *London Gazette* (10) merely states the death of Charles II’s mother, Henrietta Maria, youngest

¹³ 19 August. Candia, the early-modern name for Heraklion (Crete), was captured by the Turks in 1669.

¹⁴ 16 September.

daughter of King Henry IV of France, whereas in the French version the insertion of ‘tristes’ in reference to her death serves two purposes. First, it suggests an empathy for the French queen consort of England (as wife of Charles I) amongst the English people which in fact was not the case; secondly, the insertion of “tristes” meets French expectations of how the death of one of their own royal family should be received in the neighbouring country.¹⁵

(10) *London September 5*. Yesterday in the morning His Majesty by an Express from *France* received the news of the Death of the Queen Mother at *Colombe*.
(*London Gazette*, 6 September 1669)

(11) *De Londres, le 5 Septembre 1669*.
Hier au matin, le Roi reçut par un Exprès, qui avoit été dépêché de France, les tristes Nouvelles de la mort de la Reine Mere, décédée en sa Mason de Colombe.
(*Gazette de Londres*, 6 September 1669)

The same desire to emphasise the impact of the French Queen Mother’s death on the English court explains why later in the same dispatch the translator deviates from a close translation of the English newspaper to add further words about the consternation the death had caused at the English court.

(12) [She died] to the great Regret of the French Court and infinite affliction of his Majesty and Royal Highness, who have thereupon put an end to their Diversions in New Forrest
(*London Gazette*, 6 September 1669)

(13) [Elle est décédée] au grand regret de la Cour de France, et une extrême Affliction de Leurs Majestez de la Grande Bretagne, ainsi que de Leurs Altesses Roiales, & de toute la Cour d’Angleterre: ce qui en a fait cesser les Divertissemans à Newforest
(*Gazette de Londres*, 6 September 1669)

However, there is also an instance of the translator adding material not only in relation to the English court, and how politically it stood in relation to certain questions, but also with regard to a celebrated English institution. In (15) the translation of the installation of the new Chancellor of Oxford University includes evaluative terms (“fameuse”, “l’une des plus célèbres du Monde”) that are not found in the source text (14) and are clearly inserted to increase the prestige of the institution.

(14) *London, August 28*. On Thursday last in the afternoon, Dr. *Fell*, Vice-Chancellor of the University of *Oxford* with a considerable body of the Doctors [...] and a great body of the Masters of Arts and other Members of their Convocation met at *Exeter house*, from whence they went in their formalities to *Worcester house*, where they held a Convocation for the enstallment of his Grace the Duke of *Ormond* in the Chancellorship of the University
(*London Gazette*, 30 August 1669)

(15) *De Londres, le 28 Aoust 1669*.

¹⁵ However, while not excluding the political explanation, it is also possible that the insertion of “tristes” exemplifies what Chesterman (2016: 110) refers to as the “significance threshold”, that is, “the point at which a given message or meaning is felt to be worth uttering”. Thus, “tristes” has also been added because it was deemed culturally necessary since unlike English, where it is implicit that a death is ‘sad’, in French such a fact has to be rendered explicit

Jeudi l'aprèsdîner, le Docteur Fell, Vicechancelier de l'Université d'Oxford, accompagné de quantité de Docteurs [...] et de grand nombre de Maîtres des Arts, et autres Membres de cete fameuse Académie se rendirent en l'Hôtel d'Exeter, d'où ils passèrent en celui de Worcester, revêtus de leurs Habits de Cérémonie, où étant tous assemblez pour l'installation de Monseigneur le Duc d'Ormond en la Dignité de Chancelier de cete Université, l'une des plus célèbres du Monde.
(*Gazette de Londres*, 30 August 1669)

Finally, in the case of English news, and how it was to be perceived by the French reading public, we have an interesting case of personal self-aggrandisement. In particular, we see how in the French editions of the newspaper greater importance is given to the role of Sir Charles Cotterel, Master of Ceremonies. Whereas in the English version a news dispatch may mention the presence of the Master of Ceremonies at an event, but without specifying the official's name, in the French translation the role and name of the Master of Ceremonies are often given increased prominence. In some cases this just involves the insertion of the Master of Ceremonies's name whereas in other cases Sir Charles Cotterel's role in English court matters is enhanced. For example, in the "Whitehall" dispatch in the *Gazette de Londres* of 23 August his presence and role are mentioned twice in the celebrations of the Danish ambassador's visit whereas in the English version he has just one mention. Furthermore, in the French version of 20 September his name appears twice in a court dispatch from London in contrast to the English publication in which there is a reference to the presence of the "Master of the Ceremonies" but not to the official's name. On the basis of these alterations we can presume that Cotterel himself had exerted pressure on Moranville or Williamson to so tweak the translation that in the eyes of French readers, especially those at the French court, his own standing at the English court would be evident.

4.3.2. How the English wish their reactions to French news to be perceived

The additional material in the above cases regards English matters but we also have examples in the *Gazette de Londres* of supplementary material relating specifically to French concerns.

(16) *Paris, August 31*. The 27th instant Madam was happily brought to bed of a Daughter at the Pallace of *St. Clou*, and was the same day visited and complimented by their Majesties and several of the Great Ladys and personages of the Court.
(*London Gazette*, 26 August 1669)¹⁶

(17) *De Paris, le 31 Aoust 1669. N.S.*
Il 27 de ce mois, Madame fut, heureusement, delivrée d'une belle Princesse, en la délicateuse Maison de Saint Clou: & ce jour-là, recut visite de Leurs Majestez, & de plusieurs des principales Personnes de la Cour.
(*Gazette de Londres*, 26 August 1669)

By adding the positive evaluative terms "belle" and "délicateuse" in (17) in reference to the newly-born French princess and palace at which the birth took place, the translator is ingratiating the French monarchy. The political motivation is clear. The French court is led to believe that this explicitly positive report of the birth of the French princess had been published in the London version of the newspaper.

¹⁶ As datelines in news dispatches from France and other parts of continental Europe reflected the Gregorian calendar, they could sometimes refer to events which in England, that still followed the Julian calendar, appeared in the future.

5. The *Gazette de Londres* and seventeenth-century news translation

The analysis of eleven numbers of the *Gazette de Londres* in 1669 brings to light several points about not only the newspaper in question but also about news translation in general in the seventeenth century. As regards the *Gazette de Londres* itself, what is clear is that the translation is neither “verbatim” (Fraser 1956: 51) nor “straightforward” (Peacey 2017: 250). The French version of the *London Gazette* never includes material in the “Advertisements” section of the London newspaper, frequently rearranges the order of news dispatches and not infrequently makes changes in the translation at a word or phrase level too. The non-ideological instances of manipulation in the *Gazette de Londres* can be seen as examples of domestication where Moranville (perhaps under the guidance of the Under Secretary) manipulates the text through deletion or addition, or both, to render it more pertinent for the French-reading audience. Those responsible for the *Gazette de Londres* wished the publication to be read and sold, thus, as with modern-day news translation, domestication procedures were adopted. The ideological manipulation in the texts, instead, reflects the extent to which Moranville (alone, or again under the guidance of Williamson) attempted to exercise news management even at a micro level. On the basis of these latter examples of manipulation we can see that the translator — perhaps under his superior’s command — was using the resources of translation to promote English policy. This form of news management appears intended to promote England’s status and put a more positive spin on events relating to the French court. In this respect Moranville cannot be accused of conspiring through translation to promote a Catholic, anti-English agenda as he was accused of doing in 1678.

Comparing the above-mentioned translation strategies in Section 4 to what we already know of early modern news translation, we can see that the prevailing strategy of close translation in the *Gazette de Londres* conforms to what occurred in the translation of the Dutch and German corantos of the 1620s. On the basis of present evidence, this would appear to be the default strategy in those cases where the target text is explicitly stated as being the translation of an identifiable source text.¹⁷ The same close translation was adopted with corantos and the *London Gazette* even if the publishers’ overriding aims were fundamentally different. Unlike the publishers of corantos, who were private individuals hoping through their publications to make a profit, the government officials in charge of the *Gazette de Londres* were above all motivated by political considerations. These differences in objectives did not lead to an overall difference in translation strategy but can help to explain those exceptions to the strategy. As Dahl points out (1952: 33, 45) many of the cases in which English corantos differ from their Dutch and German source texts regard the omission of news content. The English corantos omitted news published in foreign news publications regarding English politics. Such news ran up against motley censorship restrictions. These exceptions in corantos to close translation can be contrasted to those in the *Gazette de Londres* which far from involving the omission of text instead regard the inclusion of additional news content. As said above, in these circumstances the additional material can be interpreted as having an ideological purpose.

Finally, what is important to note is how different the translation of print news was in the seventeenth century to how it is nowadays. Modern-day news translation privileges absolute domestication and it is within this concept that we can also examine news translation of the past. Through examining the level of domestication of early modern newspapers, and

¹⁷ Conversely, where the news writer does not mention translation as the source of their information, but nevertheless makes use of it, it is very possible that the translation is anything but a close translation.

understanding why very often little domestication is found, we gain insight into the respective significance of commercial and political considerations underlying the role and objectives of the publication in question.

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[Table 1: Contents of *London Gazette* (datelines and Advertisements section) and *Gazette de Londres* (datelines) 30 August-6 September 1669]

<i>LG</i> (30 Aug.)	<i>GDL</i> (30 Aug.)	<i>LG</i> (2 Sept.)	<i>GDL</i> (2 Sept.)	<i>LG</i> (6 Sept.)	<i>GDL</i> (6 Sept.)
Falmouth	Falmouth	Plymouth	Plymouth	Falmouth	Falmouth
Plymouth	Plymouth	Deal	Deal	Rome	Rome
Moscow	Moscow	Genoa	Rome*	Leghorn	Leghorn
Warsaw	Lisbon	Madrid	Genoa	Venice	Venice
Lisbon	Cadiz	Vienna	Madrid	Hague	Hague
Cadiz	Warsaw	Hamburg	Vienna	Paris	Paris
Rome*	Leghorn	Hague	Hamburg	South- ampton	South- ampton
Leghorn	Madrid	Brussels	Hague	London	London
Madrid	Venice	Paris	Brussels	Adverts	
Venice	Hague	Whitehall	Paris		
Hague	Paris	Adverts	London		
Paris	London				
London	Whitehall				
Adverts**					

* The Rome news in the *GDL* of 2 September is the translation of the *LG* dispatch of 30 August

** 'Adverts' is my abbreviation for 'Advertisements'