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Is there any English equivalent to the Italian concept of "traduttese"? In Italian, this word refers to a variety of written Italian language, used by translators lazily sticking to the source text.

I've found this word and concept in the book "La voce del testo" (The Voice of the Text) written by an important Italian translator of English literature, Franca Cavagnoli. The prestigious Treccani Dictionary of Italian Language also reports "traduttese" (see here: [http://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/traduttese\\_%28Neologismi%29/](http://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/traduttese_%28Neologismi%29/)). When recurring to "traduttese", translators banalize and simplify the source text because they slavishly try to imitate its style.



**Alessio Iacovoni** Sounds similar to what Seleskovitch called transcodage, which in her opinion was not translation proper. Suffix 'ese' clearly suggests that it is a derogatory word. However in these past 10 years there has been an ongoing debate on domestication versus foreignisation. Although some foreignised translations may be perceived as 'traduttose' by some scholars (probably Franca Cavagnoli is among them), they are sometimes considered as more respectful to the author and to his or her intended readers, by others.



**Alessio Iacovoni** How about "a stilted translation" as a translation for "traduttese"?



**Shifra Kilov** "Translatorese" (see OED, for example, a quote from TLS: "There is even a recognizable variant of pidgin English known as '{translatorese}')



**Alessio Iacovoni** <https://en.m.wiktionary.org/wiki/translatorese>



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**Felicity Tessaro** gibberish?



**Sara Castagnoli** It is called "translationese", in Translation Studies literature.



**Andrew Pietrzak** Translationese is not recognised as a word by the Concise Oxford Dictionary (91673 pages), however translational is recognised. I may say that as an English proof reader I have seen many translational and very translational texts.



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**Alberto Cassone** "Translational" exists but it seems to me that it doesn't have much to do with this discussion. The Italian word "traduttese" refers to a wrong approach to translation, as I stated before.



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**Fergus McGrail** Sara is right - it's "translationese". "Translational" means no more than "pertaining to translation". By the way, a word can still "exist" without being in any dictionary!



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**Valentina Di Bari** According to Venuti, it would be "translationese". However, I also read "traduttese" in some English essays about translation theories.



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**Denise Baldry** I like "translatorese", but that's just personal. In my early days as a translator, I was aware that my translations from German into English read differently to my translations from French. I would describe this as a touch of "translatorese". With experience and more confidence, this has faded. I do agree with Fergus, though, on the point about dictionaries. They're great - but they're not the final say .



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**Oswaldo Ospina-Cuervo** That's why there is translationist dot com.



**Oswaldo Ospina-Cuervo** "Il traduttese" = "una pigra aderenza al testo fonte". I found this link that explains in detail what Alberto is referring to. For that, and in general for would-be translators I coined "translationist" myself.

<http://www.italianalingua.it/index.php?page=il-traduttese>



**Taña Dalglish** This entry appears on on ProZ:

[http://www.proz.com/kudoz/english\\_to\\_italian/slang/2711632-translatese.html](http://www.proz.com/kudoz/english_to_italian/slang/2711632-translatese.html) (see link for context, although it is going into Italian).

"translate", "translationese" e "translatorese"

Italian translation: traduttese

[http://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/traduttese\\_\(Neologismi\)/](http://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/traduttese_(Neologismi)/)



**Taña Dalglish** More...

I also came across this, and apologize for posting in Italian (for those who may not speak/understand Italian).

[https://www.openstarts.units.it/dspace/bitstream/10077/9170/1/RITT13\\_full-text.pdf](https://www.openstarts.units.it/dspace/bitstream/10077/9170/1/RITT13_full-text.pdf)

Del resto anche Salmon qualche anno prima si era pronunciata sulla questione, quando, parlando a proposito delle traduzioni di pubblicazioni per l'infanzia, sosteneva che "un bambino non accetta il traduttese (translationese), quella specie di lingua virtuale che non esiste nella produzione naturale (né del traduttore, né degli altri nativi della LA): una fiaba raccontata in traduttese verrà rifiutata con spontaneo buon senso" (Salmon 2003: 178). Pur non adeguandosi alle convenzioni terminologiche già adottate (traduzione o traduttorese), la studiosa, in questo caso alludendo sempre alla modalità espressiva impropria espressa dai traduttori dilettanti, si era limitata a suggerire la variante traduttese.

Regards,  
Taña



• **Ilda Poshi** traduttorese or translationese  
see hatim & munday 2013 translation theories first chapter A



• **Ingrid Genis** How about just "translating literally"?



• **Alberto Cassone** Thanks Oswaldo - it is actually my website (dedicated to Italian Language and Culture) that you quoted. Ingrid: "Translating literally": as a definition, it will work most of the times, but not always, as sometimes a literal translation is just the right solution, while a "traduttese" translation is never a good one. The author/translator Franca Cavagnoli (quoted in my website) explains that "traduttese" is actually a variety of the Italian Language used by so many translators and capable of having an influence on Italian Standard Language.



• **Alberto Cassone** I have to add, that "traduttese" refers specifically to the Italian Language - therefore my proposal is for a completely new word: "Translatian". It doesn't exist but it should (perhaps ;- ) ).