

Translating Latvian diminutive nouns into Estonian

Par latviešu lietvārdu deminutīvu tulkošanu īgauņu valodā

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The study focuses on the translation of Latvian diminutives into Estonian. In both Latvian and Estonian, the main goal of diminutives is to express smallness, tenderness or affection, but in some cases also pejorative meaning (Erelt et al. 1995; Vulāne 2015; Kasik 2015; Kalnača 2015). Estonian translators of contemporary Latvian literature have stated that diminutive formations are widespread in the Latvian language, and that they do not translate all Latvian diminutives into corresponding Estonian equivalents. The purpose of this study is to analyse diminutives in three Latvian works of fiction: how many diminutives occur, how many of them are translated into Estonian, and how they have been translated. In Latvian, only diminutive nouns with suffixes *-(t)īņ-*, and *-īt-* were selected from the material. The research results show that Latvian diminutives are not very often translated into Estonian, and the main equivalent of the diminutive is frequently a base word. However, in the cases when the diminutive is translated, a variety of approaches can be observed.

Keywords: diminutives; contrastive analysis; translation; fiction; Latvian; Estonian.

Introduction

The interest in studying the translation of Latvian diminutives into Estonian was motivated by two reasons. The first is based on the author's experience of teaching Latvian as a foreign language to native speakers of Estonian. On various occasions, during the translation of Latvian vocabulary and texts, Estonian students encountered Latvian diminutives. In several instances, diminutives have a shared applicability in both Latvian and Estonian, as in example (1) – In Latvian, the diminutive is formed by adding the suffix *-īņ-* and in Estonian by adding the suffix *-ke*.

		Suffix		Diminutive
(1)	a. Latvian:	<i>māja</i>	- <i>iņ-</i>	<i>mājiņa</i>
		house.NOM.SG		house-DIM-NOM.SG
		‘house’		‘little house’
	b. Estonian:	<i>maja</i>	- <i>ke</i>	<i>majake</i>
		house.NOM.SG		house-DIM.NOM.SG
		‘house’		‘little house’

However, disparities can arise when the use of diminutives in Estonian differs from their use in Latvian. An example in Latvian heard by the author of this article (i.e., personal knowledge):

(2)	a. Latvian:	<i>PIN-kod-iņ-u,</i>	<i>lūdzu!</i>
		PIN-code-DIM-ACC.SG	please
		‘Please, enter PIN code!’	
	b. Estonian:	<i>PIN-kood,</i>	<i>palun!</i>
		PIN-code-PART.SG	please
		‘Please, enter PIN code!’	

The second motivation behind conducting this study is based on the conversations with Estonian translators specializing in contemporary Latvian fiction. In November 2022, a seminar for Latvian and Estonian translators was held at the University of Tartu. During the seminar, the author engaged in discussions with translators concerning the nuances of diminutives. In translators’ opinion, diminutive formations are more widespread in the Latvian language, and that they do not uniformly translate all Latvian diminutives into corresponding Estonian diminutive equivalents. Translators rely upon their native language proficiency and use diminutives according to their intuition and the corresponding context.

Derived from the aforementioned motivations, the principal objective of this research is to analyse diminutive nouns from three works of Latvian fiction and their translations into Estonian. The findings of this study are anticipated to offer practical value to Latvian language learners and individuals engaged in the task of translating Latvian fictional literature into Estonian.

1. Theoretical background

Diminutives are words that express smallness, endearment, affection, and sometimes also pejorative meaning. Diminutives are mainly formed by the help of suffixes, like in English *dog* – *doggy*, in Lithuanian *namas* ‘house’ – *nam-elis*, *nam-ukas*, *nam-ytis* (Savickienė 2007, 14), Russian *syn* ‘son’ – *syn-ok-ø*, *syn-oček-ø*, *syn-ulj-a* (Protassova, Voeikova 2007, 44). Diminutives are also commonly used when discussing matters concerning children or interacting with them, i.e., using the child-directed speech (Laalo 2007; Marrero et al. 2007; Protassova, Voeikova 2007).

Latvian historically has had a series of diminutive suffixes, which today are no longer in use or occur only in dialects. A more comprehensive study of Latvian

diminutive suffixes can be found in Velta Rūķe-Draviņa's "Diminutive im Lettichen" (1959). Nowadays, the following diminutive suffixes are used mainly (e.g., Ahero et al. 1959, 174; Vulāne 2015, 220–244; Kalnača 2015): *-el-* (*mājele* 'house'), *-ēn-* (*puisēns* 'boy'), *-iņ-* (*grāmatiņa* 'book'), *-īt-* (*brālītis* 'brother'), *-sniņ-* (*naksnīņa* 'night'), *-tiņ-* (*uguntiņa* 'light'), *-uk-* (*suņuks* 'doggie'), *-ul-* (*Annule* 'Anna'). The most productive diminutive suffixes are *-iņ-* and *-īt-* (Urbanoviča 2014, 149; Kalnača 2015), so this research will focus on these diminutive suffixes.

In Estonian, there are two types of morphological diminutives – firstly, with suffixes *-ke* or *-kene* (hereinafter presented together as *-ke(ne)*) as in *tādike* 'auntie' or *tādikene* 'auntie' (Erelt et al. 2007, 622; Kasik 2015, 251). These suffixes are identical and can be used interchangeably. The distinctive feature of these suffixal diminutives is that they can be used indefinitely. The *-kene* suffix can be added to an already existing *-kene* suffix, thus leading to the formation of a potentially infinite lexical unit, e.g., *linnukesekene* 'birdie' (Kasik 2015, 251). The second type of diminutive suffix is *-u*, e.g., *kutsu* 'doggy', *poju* 'sonny', *kiisu* 'kitty', etc. These types of words are considered to be part of caregivers' speech and child language (Erelt et al. 1995, 548; Erelt et al. 2007, 622; Kasik 2015, 241, 251).

In Estonian, besides suffixes, there are also non-suffixal diminutive derivatives, which are formed by the lexicalization of the genitive form, e.g., *vend* 'brother' – *venna* 'brother.DIM', and diminutive gemination *ema* 'mother' – *emme* 'mommy', *isa* 'father' – *issi* 'daddy' (Kehayov, Blokland 2006).

In Estonian, diminutives carrying pejorative connotations are exemplified by those featuring the suffix *-i-* within the stem, e.g., *mehike* 'miserable, inept man or one physically in a miniature size' and *vennike* 'a man or a boy in a pitiful or scornful way' (Erelt et al. 1995, 502; Kehayov, Blokland 2006, 94; Kasik 2015, 241). Even though the base words have the suffixes *-e-* (*mees* (man.NOM), *mehe* (man.GEN), *meh-e-ke* (man-GEN-DIM) 'man') and *-a-* (*vend* (brother.NOM), *venna* (brother.GEN), *venn-a-ke* (brother-GEN-DIM) 'brother') in the genitive, by changing these vowels to *-i-* the semantics of the words change, and they become separate lexical words (Kasik 2015, 241).

In several languages, there is the possibility to form double diminutives, like in Lithuanian *saul-ut-ėl-ė* 'sun-DIM-DIM' (Savickienė 2007, 15), in Spanish *poquitito* 'little-DIM-DIM' (Marrero et al. 2007, 156), in Russian *set-oč-k-a* 'net-DIM-DIM' (Protassova, Voeikova 2007, 46) etc. In Estonian, the suffix *-ke(ne)* can join the diminutive with *u-*suffix, thus forming the double diminutive *poju: poj-u-kene* 'son-DIM-DIM' (Erelt et al. 2007, 623; Kasik 2015, 241). Similarly, in Latvian, e.g., the suffix *-iņ-* can be added to the suffix *-ēn-* or suffix *-uk-* forming a double diminutive derivatives as in *kuc-ēn-iņ-š* 'puppy-DIM-DIM', *suņ-uk-iņ-š* 'doggy-DIM-DIM' (Praulīšs 2012, 40; Kalnača 2015).

There is a wide range of words that have formal diminutive features, and they are called term-like diminutives. This implies that although these words possess formal characteristics of diminutives, they lack the semantic attributes associated with true diminutive formations, for example, in Latvian *vakariņas* 'dinner', *āboliņš* 'clover', *saičiņa* 'copula' (Ahero et al. 1959, 117; Vulāne 2015, 227; Kalnača, Lokmane 2021, 127). In Estonian, these are so-called semantically empty diminutives, where the base word

of the derivative is no longer in use and the basic meaning is not clear, e.g., *vāike* ‘small’, *natuke* ‘a little bit’, *pāike* ‘sun’ (Arukask, Saar 2020, 12).

Although Estonian can form a large number of diminutives, the diminutive is not very productive in either spoken or written language compared to the Baltic and East Slavic languages (Erelt et al. 1995, 502). However, according to Arukask and Saar (2020, 10), diminutives are used more frequently in southern Estonian (Võro, Seto, Mulgi) than in northern Estonian. This is noteworthy, since southern Estonia historically has had a closer contact with the Latvian language than the rest of the Estonian territory.

Kupp-Sazonov (2019) studied the functionality of diminutive nouns in Russian and Estonian. The research discovered that the translation of Russian diminutives in Estonian can be divided into three groups:

- 1) when the diminutive has a diminutive counterpart in Estonian;
- 2) when there is no equivalent;
- 3) when the diminutive meaning has been compensated in Estonian.
- 4) The findings of the present research show a notable degree of congruence in this regard.

No comparative research has been done so far regarding Latvian and Estonian diminutives. Thus, the study at hand holds the potential to remarkably advance this research domain.

2. Material and method

The research material consists of three Latvian books of fiction and their respective Estonian translations. To provide objectivity, the selection of books is based on the following conditions: the books were written by three different authors, in different decades, and translated into Estonian by different translators.

The first Latvian book is Regīna Ezera’s “Aka” (1972) and its Estonian translation “Kaev” (1990, translated by Valli Helde) (in the examples denoted as E). The second book is Nora Ikstena’s “Dzīves svinēšana” (1998) and its Estonian translation “Elu pühitsus” (2003, translated by Ita Saks) (in the examples denoted as I). The third book is Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce’s “Puika, kurš redzēja tumsā” (2019) and its Estonian translation “Poiss, kes nägi pimeduses” (2021, translated by Margus Konnula) (in the examples denoted as B-P).

The study has employed a contrastive method of analysis, which means that two languages are compared, and the corresponding linguistic phenomenon is studied. In this research, a directional analysis is adopted, wherein one language is regarded as the source language and the other is considered the target language (Jørgensen 1982, 57–58).

The works of fiction and their translations were converted into a parallel text corpus by the author, which is not publicly accessible. The sentences where the diminutives appear were selected from Latvian and compared to their Estonian translations side by side. In the examples discussed in the results section, the respective translations in English have been added by the author of this article.

Diminutives may possess several meanings simultaneously, and it can be difficult to distinguish which meaning the diminutive carries in a specific situation. Hence, it is challenging to provide an English translation for diminutives without context, because a diminutive may, for example, not always mean smallness, where the equivalent in English would be 'little', but it may also contain other meanings. Therefore, in this article, a base word is mainly used in the diminutive translations, when the sentence and context are not provided.

This is quantitative research, because the focus is on how many, and which diminutive equivalents can be found in the Estonian translations. To understand why the translator has made a choice not to translate the diminutive form, a separate qualitative study should be conducted.

3. Empirical analysis

The first research task was to determine the number of diminutives within the corpus of the three literary works. Since the diminutives were searched electronically, it was inevitable to come across term-like diminutives, which contained the suffix *-iņ-* and *-īt-*, however, from a semantic standpoint, these derivatives do not qualify as diminutives. Therefore, the term-like diminutive nouns (e.g., *āboliņš* 'clover', *cūciņas* 'mumps', *mārīte* 'ladybird') were excluded from the analysis. The same approach was applied to diminutive-like surnames (e.g., *Zariņš*, *Lapiņš*, *Apinītis*), personal names (e.g., *Ričiņš*, *Zaigiņa*) and place names (e.g., *Tomariņi*), which were all excluded from the present study. An additional prerequisite for the selection was that the diminutives possess a base word. Based on the aforementioned criteria, a total of 308 diminutives containing the suffix *-(t)iņ-* and *-īt-* were obtained from the research material.

There were 15 diminutives that appeared in all three works of fiction: *bariņš* 'crowd', *blodiņa* 'bowl', *burciņa* 'jar', *gabaliņš* 'piece', *laiciņš* 'time', *lapiņa* 'paper', *maisiņš* 'bag', *paciņa* 'packet', *pirkstiņš* 'finger', *plakstiņš* 'eyelid', *somiņa* 'purse', *soliņš* 'bench', *sunītis* 'dog', *taciņa* 'path' and *zvaigznīte* 'star'. The remaining diminutives either appeared in one or two works, respectively.

The diminutives identified within the research can be classified into three groups:

- 1) those denoting only smallness: e.g., *akmentiņi* 'stones', *bedrīte* 'hole', *sainītis* 'packet', *veikaliņš* 'shop' etc.;
- 2) those conveying sentiments of endearment and charm (directed towards someone): e.g., *līgaviņa* 'bride', *mammīte* 'mommy', *omīte* 'granny', *večiņa* 'old woman' etc.;
- 3) those carrying a pejorative connotation: e.g., *cilvēciņš* 'human', *jaunkundzīte* 'miss' etc.

The second research task was to study the translations of Latvian diminutives in Estonian. According to the research material, the results can be summarized, as follows:

- 1) 82 % or 252 Latvian diminutives were not translated into Estonian by using a corresponding diminutive suffix or any other means referring to diminutive meaning. Instead, a common base word was used, e.g., *lellīte* 'little doll' – *nukk* 'doll'.

- 2) 18 % or 56 Latvian diminutives were translated into Estonian either by using a corresponding diminutive suffix or other means that may carry the diminutive meaning.

The diminutives were translated followingly:

- 1) Estonian diminutive with the suffix *-ke(ne)*, e.g., *upīte* ‘river’ – *jõeke* ‘river’ (chapter 4.1.);
- 2) Estonian diminutives with the suffix *-u-* and those words that are part of child speech, e.g., *zaķītis* ‘bunny’ – *jānku* ‘bunny’, *lācītis* ‘bear’ – *karumõmmi* ‘bear’ (chapter 4.2.);
- 3) adjective *vāike* ‘small’, e.g., *oliņa* ‘egg’ – *vāike muna* ‘small egg’ (chapter 4.3.);
- 4) adjective *pisi-* ‘tiny’ and noun compound, e.g., *zilonītis* ‘elephant’ – *pisielevant* ‘tiny elephant’ (chapter 4.4.);
- 5) complementary noun that adds the meaning of smallness, e.g., *karotīte* ‘spoon’ – *teelusikas* ‘teaspoon’ (chapter 4.5.).

Given that the research aims to examine the translation of Latvian diminutives into Estonian, the focus will be directed towards the translations. Notably, the majority of the diminutives remained untranslated, hence, they were not individually addressed in this article. The primary emphasis lies upon examining the methodologies used for translation.

3.1. Estonian diminutive with suffix *-ke(ne)*

As anticipated, when translating Latvian diminutives into Estonian, the prevailing equivalent frequently takes the form of a derivative with the suffix *-ke(ne)*. Upon examining the diminutives (with consideration for word repetition due to their appearance in multiple books), a total of 42 words (constituting 13 % of all the Latvian diminutives under study) were translated at least once using a diminutive with the suffix *-ke(ne)*. However, if we look at each book separately, the results are, as follows. From 133 Latvian diminutives that appeared in Ezera (1972) only 17 diminutives were translated into Estonian by using a derivative with the suffix *-ke(ne)*. Accordingly, in Ikstena (1998) – 18 diminutives of 131, and in Bugavičūte-Pēce (2019) 15 diminutives of 121.

The outcomes reveal two salient points: firstly, a parallelism in the frequency of diminutive usage across the three original books, ranging between 121 and 133 instances; secondly, the number of translated diminutives using the suffix *-ke(ne)* across all three books, constituting approximately 11–13 % of the total (see Table 1). This suggests that the tendency to translate Latvian diminutive into Estonian by using the suffix *-ke(ne)* is not very high.

Author	Diminutives in Latvian	Derivative with suffix <i>-ke(ne)</i>	Percentage
Ezera (1972/1990)	133	17	11.2 %
Ikstena (1998/2003)	131	18	13.7 %
Bugavičūte-Pēce (2019/2021)	121	15	12.3 %

Table 1. The number of diminutives in each work, their translation in Estonian using the derivative suffix *-ke(ne)* and its percentage throughout the material

No.	Latvian diminutive	Estonian suffix <i>-ke(ne)</i>	Author
1.	<i>avīžgabalīņš</i> ‘piece of newspaper’	<i>ajalehetikike</i> ‘piece of newspaper’	B-P
2.	<i>bedrīte</i> ‘hole’	<i>lohuke</i> ‘hole’	E
3.	<i>ciematiņš</i> ‘village’	<i>kūlake</i> ‘village’	I
4.	<i>cigaretēs oglīte</i> ‘cigarette charcoal’	<i>sigaretituluke</i> ‘cigarette light’	I
5.	<i>figūrīna</i> ‘figurine’	<i>kujuke</i> ‘figurine’	I
6.	<i>karīte</i> ‘card’	<i>kaardike</i> ‘card’	I
7.	<i>kumosīņš</i> ‘bite’	<i>tūkike</i> ‘piece’, <i>palake</i> ‘piece of food’	E
8.	<i>līgaviņa</i> ‘bride’	<i>pruudike</i> ‘bride’	I
9.	<i>mazumiņš</i> ‘whit’	<i>natukene</i> ‘whit’	I
10.	<i>mīlulītis</i> ‘darling’	<i>kallike</i> ‘darling’	B-P
11.	<i>omīte</i> ‘granny’	<i>memmeke</i> ‘nan’	B-P
12.	<i>sainītis</i> ‘packet’	<i>pambuke</i> ‘packet’	I
		<i>pakike</i> ‘packet’	E
13.	<i>tārpiņš</i> ‘worm’	<i>ussike</i> ‘worm’	I
14.	<i>večiņa</i> ‘old woman’	<i>eidekene</i> ‘old woman’	E
15.	<i>veikalīņš</i> ‘shop’	<i>poeke</i> ‘shop’	B-P
16.	<i>vīriņš</i> ‘man’	<i>mehike</i> ‘man’	I

Table 2. Latvian diminutives and their translations into Estonian by derivatives with the suffix *-ke(ne)*

There were 16 diminutives (5 % of all the diminutives studied) that were translated only by the Estonian diminutive with the suffix *-ke(ne)* (see Table 2), which means that in all the remaining cases, the suffix *-ke(ne)* was only one of the possible translations. The words presented in the table below occurred only 1–2 times in the study material.

The diminutives collected in Table 2 mainly express smallness (example 3), as well as endearment (example 4).

- (3) a. *Laura izkravāja no somas tūtas*
 Laura.NOM.SG unload.PST.3 PREP bag.GEN.SG paper-cone.ACC.PL
un sainītis.
 and bundle-DIM-ACC.PL
 ‘Laura unloaded paper cones and bundles from her bag.’ (E, 1972)
- b. *Laura vōttis kotist vālja torbikuid*
 Laura.NOM.SG take.PST.3SG bag.ELA.SG out paper-cone.PART.PL
ja paki-kesi.
 and packet-DIM.PART.PL
 ‘Laura took out the paper cones and packets from her bag.’ (E, 1990)
- (4) a. *Man bija pilns ciems līgav-iņ-u.*
 I.DAT.SG have.PST.3 full.NOM.SG village.NOM.SG bride-DIM-GEN.PL
 ‘I had a village full of brides.’ (I, 1998)

- b. *Mul* *oli* *kūlatāis* *pruudi-kesi*.
 1.ADE.SG have.PST.3SG villageful.NOM.SG bride-DIM.PART.PL
 ‘I had a village full of brides.’ (I, 2003)

Nevertheless, it was notably prevalent for Latvian diminutives to be associated with multiple possible translations. In the research material, 22 diminutives were found (7 % of all the diminutives studied) that were rendered in Estonian both by the suffix *-ke(ne)* and by a base word (regular noun) (see Table 3). Table 3 shows that the same Latvian diminutive may be translated into Estonian by either a diminutive or a regular noun, and the same translator may use both options. This underscores the notion that the counterpart of a diminutive might not invariably be another diminutive in Estonian. Depending on the context, the translator has discerned the feasibility of using either a diminutive or a regular noun as the Estonian equivalent for a given Latvian diminutive.

No.	Latvian diminutive	Estonian translation		Author
		Suffix <i>-ke(ne)</i>	Regular noun	
1.	<i>akmentiņš</i> ‘stone’	<i>kivike</i> ‘stone’	<i>kivi</i> ‘stone’	I
2.	<i>ļodiņa</i> ‘bowl’	<i>kausike</i> ‘bowl’	<i>kauss</i> ‘bowl’	I
		–		E
		–		B-P
3.	<i>brālītis</i> ‘brother’	<i>vennike</i> ‘brother’	<i>vennas</i> ‘brother’	E
4.	<i>bulciņa</i> ‘bun’	<i>saiake</i> ‘bun’	<i>pirukas</i> ‘pie’	B-P
5.	<i>bumbiņa</i> ‘ball’	<i>kuulikene, pallikene</i> ‘ball’	<i>kuul</i> ‘ball’	I
		–	<i>pall</i> ‘ball’	B-P
6.	<i>cilvēciņš</i> ‘human’	<i>mehike</i> ‘man’	<i>inimkuju</i> ‘human figurine’	E
			–	B-P
7.	<i>draudzīņš</i> ‘friend’	<i>sōbrake</i> ‘friend’, <i>kullake</i> ‘darling’	–	E
		–	<i>sōber</i> ‘friend’	B-P
8.	<i>gabaliņš</i> ‘piece’	<i>tūkike</i> ‘piece’, <i>vāheke</i> ‘a little bit’	<i>tūkk</i> ‘piece’	E
		–		I
		–		B-P
9.	<i>jaunkundzīte</i> ‘miss’	<i>preilike</i> ‘miss’	<i>preilna, preili</i> ‘miss’	E
10.	<i>kaķītis</i> ‘cat’	<i>kassike</i> ‘cat’	<i>kass</i> ‘cat’	B-P
11.	<i>kastīte</i> ‘box’	<i>karbikene, kastikene</i> ‘box’	<i>karp, kast</i> ‘box’	B-P
		<i>kastike</i> ‘box’	<i>karp, kast</i> ‘box’	E

No.	Latvian diminutive	Estonian translation		Author
		Suffix <i>-ke(ne)</i>	Regular noun	
12.	<i>kociņš</i> ‘tree’	<i>puukene</i> ‘tree’	<i>puu</i> ‘tree’	E
13.	<i>lapiņa</i> ‘paper’	<i>leheke</i> ‘paper’	<i>paberileht</i> ‘paper sheet’	B-P
		–	<i>leht</i> ‘paper’	I
		–		E
14.	<i>lodīte</i> ‘bead’	<i>kuulike</i> ‘globule’	<i>kera</i> ‘ball’	I
		–	<i>kuul</i> ‘ball’	B-P
15.	<i>maisīņš</i> ‘bag’	<i>kotike</i> ‘bag’	<i>kilekott, kott</i> ‘bag’	B-P
		–	–	I
		–	<i>kott</i> ‘bag’	E
16.	<i>mezgliņš</i> ‘knot’	<i>sõlmeke</i> ‘knot’	<i>sõlm</i> ‘knot’	E
17.	<i>plekītis</i> ‘stain’	<i>laiguke</i> ‘spot’	<i>plekk</i> ‘stain’	B-P
18.	<i>putniņš</i> ‘bird’	<i>linnuke</i> ‘bird’	<i>lind</i> ‘bird’	E
		–	–	B-P
19.	<i>uguntiņa</i> ‘flame’	<i>tuluke</i> ‘light’	<i>tuli</i> ‘light’	E
				I
20.	<i>upīte</i> ‘river’	<i>jõeke</i> ‘river’	–	I
		–	<i>jõgi</i> ‘river’	E
21.	<i>zvaigznīte</i> ‘star’	<i>tāheke</i> ‘star’	<i>tāht</i> ‘star’	E
			–	B-P
			–	<i>tāht</i> ‘star’, <i>tārn</i> ‘asterisk’
22.	<i>zvaniņš</i> ‘bell’	<i>kelluke</i> ‘bell’	–	B-P
			<i>kell</i> ‘bell’	E

Table 3. Latvian diminutives and their translations into Estonian by derivatives with the suffix *-ke(ne)* and/or common nouns

Despite instances where the translator used derivatives with the suffix *-ke(ne)* to translate the diminutive, there were also occurrences in which the diminutive was translated by the same person using the base word. For example, the Latvian diminutive *akmentiņš* ‘stone’ was translated into Estonian by the same translator once using the diminutive *kivike* ‘stone’ (5b) and immediately thereafter – into the base word *kivi* ‘stone’ (6b). Essentially, if the object expressed with a diminutive has already been mentioned once, it does not need to be repeated in Estonian. For this reason, in the first sentence (example 5b) it is indicated that small stones (*kivikesed* ‘small stones’) were thrown into the window, but subsequently (example 6b) it is specified that the throwing of stones continued, yet this time the base word (*kivid* ‘stones’) is used. Had the Estonian diminutive not been used in the first sentence, the reader would have the impression that normal-sized stones were thrown into the window, potentially suggesting the fracture of the window.

- (5) a. *Karstākajā balles brīdī kāds uzstājīgi*
 hottest.LOC.SG ball.GEN.SG moment.LOC.SG someone.NOM.SG insistently
meta ar akmen-tiņ-iem pa logu.
 throw.PST.3 with stone-DIM-PL.INS PREP window.ACC.SG
 ‘At the hottest moment of the ball, someone persistently threw little stones at the window.’ (I, 1998)
- b. *Pidustuste kōige kuumemal hetkel*
 celebration.PL.GEN most.GEN.SG hottest.ADE.SG moment.ADE.SG
viskas keegi pealetūkkivalt kivi-kes-te-ga
 throw.PST.3SG someone.NOM.SG intrusively stone-DIM-PL-COM
vastu akent.
 PREP window.PART.SG
 ‘At the hottest moment of the celebrations, someone intrusively threw little stones at the window.’ (I, 2003)
- (6) a. *Akmen-tiņ-i logā nerimās.*
 stone-DIM-NOM.PL window.LOC.SG not_calm_down.PST.3
 ‘The little stones in the window did not stop.’ (I, 1998)
- b. *Kivide loopimine jātкус.*
 stone.GEN.PL throwing.NOM continue.PST.3SG
 ‘The throwing of the stones continued.’ (I, 2003)

More frequently observed (as seen in the case of 15 words outlined in Table 3) was the divergence wherein distinct translators adopted varying solutions. For example, the Latvian diminutive *zvaigznīte* ‘star’ was translated in Ezera (1990) and in Bugavičūte-Pēce (2021) by the diminutive *tāheke* ‘little star’ (examples 7b, 8b), but in Ikstena (2003) (example 9b) – by the base word *tāht* ‘star’.

- (7) a. *Tālu augšā virs galvām slīdēja*
 far up above head.DAT.PL glide.PST.3
sudrabaina zvaigzn-īt-e.
 silvery.NOM.SG star-DIM-NOM.SG
 ‘Far above, a silvery little star glided overhead.’ (E, 1972)
- b. *Kaugel pea kohal libises*
 far head.GEN.SG above glide.PST.3SG
hōbedane tāhe-ke.
 silvery.NOM.SG star-DIM.NOM.SG
 ‘Far above, a silvery little star glided overhead.’ (E, 1990)
- (8) a. *Tad nu es izmantoju situāciju un lielāko*
 then so 1.NOM.SG use.PST.1SG situation.ACC.SG and biggest.ACC.SG
daļu pārvāšanās laika gulēju zvaigzn-īt-ē
 part.ACC.SG moving.GEN.SG time.GEN.SG lay.PST.1SG star-DIM-LOC.SG
istabas vidū uz grīdas [..]
 room.GEN.SG middle.LOC.SG PREP floor.GEN.SG
 ‘So, I took advantage of the situation and spent most of the moving time laying like a little star on the floor in the middle of the room [..].’ (B-P, 2019)

- b. *Siis ma kasutasin olukorda ja lamasin*
 then 1.NOM.SG use.PST.1SG situation.PART.SG and lay.PST.1SG
enamiku kolimise ajast keset
 most.GEN.SG moving.GEN.SG time.ELA.SG middle.PART.SG
tuba põrandal tähe-kese-na [...]
 room.PART.SG floor.ADE.SG star-DIM-ESS

‘Then I took advantage of the situation and laid like a little star in the middle of the room on the floor during most of the moving [...]’ (B-P, 2021)

In example (9a) there are two diminutives – *zvaigznīte* ‘little star’ and *marcipāna figūriņas* ‘marzipan figurines’. Only the second diminutive is translated into diminutive in Estonian as *martsipanikujukese* ‘marzipan figurines’ (example 9b), but the first one *tāhed* ‘stars’ is left as the base word.

- (9) a. *Keizaram acu priekšā šķīlās nevis*
 Keizars.DAT.SG eye.GEN.PL in_front sparkle.PST.3 not
zvaigzn-īt-es, bet marcipāna figūr-iņ-as [...]
 star-DIM-NOM.PL but marzipan.GEN.SG figurine-DIM-NOM.PL
 ‘Not stars, but marzipan figurines sparkled in front of Keizars’ eyes [...]’ (I, 1998)
- b. *Keizarsi silme ees ei sätendanud mitte*
 Keizars.GEN.SG eye.GEN.PL in_front not_sparkle.PST.PTCP not
tāhed, vaid martsipanikuju-kese-d [...]
 star.NOM.PL but marzipan_figurine-DIM-NOM.PL
 ‘Not stars, but marzipan figurines sparkled in front of Keizars’ eyes [...]’ (I, 2003)

It is common to use diminutives when talking to or about children. In Ezera (1972), when the adult characters are speaking to the child or the dog, they use the endearing diminutive *draudziņš* ‘friend’. However, the diminutive is alternately translated in two ways, either with the basic meaning of the word as (10b) *sõbrake* ‘friend’ or with an endearing meaning as (11b) *kullake* ‘darling’.

- (10) a. *Ar labu nakti, draudz-iņ!*
 PREP good.INS.SG night.INS.SG friend-DIM.VOC.SG
 ‘Good night, little friend!’ (E, 1972)
- b. *Head ööd, sõbra-ke!*
 good.PART.SG night.PART.SG friend-DIM.NOM.SG
 ‘Good night, little friend!’ (E, 1990)
- (11) a. *Kā tu jūties, draudz-iņ?*
 how 2SG.NOM feel.PRS.2SG friend-DIM.VOC.SG
 ‘How are you feeling, little friend?’ (E, 1972)
- b. *Kuidas sa ennast tunned, kulla-ke?*
 how 2SG.NOM self.PART.SG feel.PRS.2SG darling-DIM.NOM.SG
 ‘How are you feeling, darling?’ (E, 1990)

According to the language portal of the Institute of the Estonian Language (EKI), “Sõnaveeb” (available at: www.sonaveeb.ee), the word *meheke* refers to a man

‘affectionately, sympathetically, pitifully, derisively’, but *mehike* is ‘a ridiculously small and gaunt, wretched, wretched-looking man’. The word *mehike* was used as a translation to two Latvian diminutives: *vīriņš* ‘man’ (derived from *vīrs* ‘man’) and *cilvēciņš* ‘human’ (derived from *cilvēks* ‘human’). In Latvian, the diminutive *vīriņš* ‘man’ (example 12a) does not appear to have a pejorative meaning but expresses smallness and endearment. However, the second half of the sentence, where explanatory information is given about the nature of this man, can add just this pejorative meaning, which explains why the word *mehike* is used in the Estonian translation (example 12b).

- (12) a. “*Bita-Bita*”, *bez uzaicinājuma pirmais no*
Bita-Bita.NOM.SG without invitation.GEN.SG first.NOM.M.SG PREP
krēsla piesvempās vīr-iņ-š, kura
chair.GEN.SG get_up.PST.3 man-DIM-NOM.SG who.GEN.M.SG
seja atgādināja briesmīgu bērnu.
face.NOM.SG resemble.PST.3 terrible.ACC.SG child.ACC.SG
 “‘*Bita-Bita*’, a man with a face reminiscent of a terrible child was the first to get up from his chair without being asked.’ (I, 1998)
- b. “*Bita-Bita*”, *ajas end ilma palumata*
Bita-Bita.NOM.SG get.PST.3SG self.PART.SG without ask.INF.ABE
esimesena toolilt pūsti meh-i-ke, kelle
first.ESS.SG chair.ABL.SG up man-DIM-DIM-NOM.SG who.GEN.SG
nāgu meenutas koledat last.
face.NOM.SG resemble.PST.3SG ugly.PART.SG child.PART.SG
 “‘*Bita-Bita*’, a man with a face reminiscent of an ugly child was the first to get up from his chair without being asked.’ (I, 2003)

Another word that was also translated in Estonian as *mehike* ‘man’ was *cilvēciņš* ‘human’. In the material, it was used in two meanings – as a reference to a small Lego figurine *lego cilvēciņš* ‘lego human’ – *legomehike* ‘lego man’. The second case was *mazi, pelēki cilvēciņi* ‘small grey people’ (example 13a), which was translated as *vāikesed hallid mehikesed* ‘small grey people’ (example 13b) referring to imaginary beings to whom a mother sends her son to if he does not behave nicely. Once *cilvēciņš* ‘human’ was translated as *inimkuju* ‘human figurine’ (in Ezera 1990), when referring to little people that were drawn on paper.

- (13) a. *Es negribu pie mazajiem pelēkajiem*
I.NOM.SG not_want.PRS.1SG PREP small.DEF.DAT.PL grey.DEF.DAT.PL
cilvēc-iņ-iem.
people-DIM-DAT.PL
 ‘I don’t want to be with the little grey people.’ (B-P, 2019)
- b. *Ma ei taha vāikeste hallide*
I.NOM.SG not want small.GEN.PL grey.GEN.PL
meh-i-kest-e juurde.
people-DIM-DIM-GEN.PL POSTP
 ‘I don’t want to go to the little grey people.’ (B-P, 2021)

In conclusion, the Estonian diminutive with the suffix *-ke(ne)* is the most commonly used equivalent to the Latvian diminutive. The primary challenge of the analysis arises from the fact that most of these diminutives possess a corresponding base noun alongside the diminutive suffix. This shows that using a derivative with the suffix *-ke(ne)* is not a singular option; moreover, it signifies that a translator might, contingent upon the context, opt for both a diminutive and a standard base word to translate a Latvian diminutive.

3.2. Diminutive with the suffix *-u* and words of child speech

In the research material, there were 7 diminutives that were translated into Estonian either by the diminutive with the suffix *-u* or by words that are treated as part of caretaker or child speech (see Table 4). From these 7 translations, according to “Sõnaveeb” five words are marked as child speech: *karumõmm* ‘teddybear’, *emme* ‘mommy’, *issi* ‘daddy’, *piilu* / *piilupart* ‘duck’, *jänku* ‘bunny’. However, words that are simply endearing but also used by children are *kiisu* ‘kitty’, *kiisuke* ‘kitty’, *kutsa* ‘dog, puppy’.

Although the diminutive *sunītis* ‘doggy’ was translated as the diminutive *koerakene* ‘dog’ (in Bugavičūte-Pēce 2021), there were also two other options: *kutsa* ‘doggy’ (in Ezera 1990) and *kutsikas* ‘puppy’ (in Ikstena 2003). In Latvian, the diminutive word *sunītis* ‘doggy’ (example 14a) can refer to a small dog, not necessarily a puppy (there is a separate word for this, *kucēns* ‘puppy’); however, the Latvian word *sunītis* ‘doggy’ was translated once into Estonian as *kutsikas* ‘puppy’, which semantically is not equivalent to the Latvian word.

No.	Latvian diminutive	Estonian translation			Author
		Diminutive with suffix <i>-u-</i>	Common noun	Suffix <i>-ke(ne)</i>	
1.	<i>lācītis</i> ‘teddy-bear’	<i>karumõmm</i> ‘teddy-bear’	–	–	E
2.	<i>mammīte</i> ‘mommy’	<i>emme</i> ‘mommy’	–	–	E
3.	<i>mincītis</i> ‘cat, kitty’	<i>kiisu</i> ‘kitty’	–	<i>kiisuke</i> ‘kitty’	E
4.	<i>papīnš</i> ‘daddy’	<i>issi</i> ‘daddy’	<i>isa</i> ‘father’	–	E
5.	<i>pīlīte</i> ‘duck’	<i>piilu</i> / <i>piilupart</i> ‘duck’	–	–	E
6.	<i>sunītis</i> ‘doggy’	<i>kutsa</i> ‘doggy’	–	–	E
		–	<i>kutsikas</i> ‘puppy’, <i>koer</i> ‘dog’	–	I
		–	–	<i>koerakene</i> ‘doggy’	B-P
7.	<i>zaķītis</i> ‘rabbit, bunny’	<i>jänku</i> ‘bunny’	–	–	E

Table 4. Latvian diminutives and their translations into Estonian child speech, common noun and/or suffix *-ke(ne)*

- (14) a. *Viņš bija klausījies Eleonorai kā*
 he.NOM be.PST.3 obey.PTCP.M Eleonora.DAT.SG like
uzticīgs sun-īt-is [..]
 faithful.NOM.SG dog-DIM-NOM.SG
 ‘He had obeyed Eleanora like a faithful little dog [..]’ (I, 1998)
- b. *Ta oli kuulanud Eleonorat nagu*
 he.NOM be.PST.3SG obey.PTCP Eleonora.PART like
ustav kutsikas [..]
 faithful.NOM.SG puppy.NOM.SG
 ‘He had obeyed Eleanora like a faithful puppy [..]’ (I, 2003)

Some of the words belonging to this group can be considered separate lexical words that are not derived from a base word, e.g., *kiisu* ‘kitty’ and *piilu* ‘duck’. Other words do have a base form: *emme* ‘mommy’–*ema* ‘mother’, *issi* ‘daddy’ – *isa* ‘father’, *jänku* ‘bunny’ – *jānes* ‘rabbit’. One word in this group, *karumõmm* ‘teddy-bear’, is a combination of two words with the same meaning: *karu* ‘bear’ and *mõmm* ‘bear’ (in child speech).

3.3. Adjective *vāike* ‘little’

Besides suffixes, extensional parts such as the adjective *small* may also convey the diminutive meaning of smallness (Kasik 2015, 241). Seven Latvian diminutives were translated into Estonian using the adjective *vāike* ‘small’. Table 5 shows that, as in

No.	Latvian diminutive	Estonian translation			Author
		Adjective <i>vāike</i> ‘small’ + noun	Regular noun	Suffix <i>-ke(ne)</i>	
1.	<i>istabiņa</i> ‘room’	<i>vāike tuba</i> ‘small room’	<i>tuba</i> ‘room’	–	I
		–		–	B-P
2.	<i>liesmiņa</i> ‘flame’	<i>vāike leek</i> ‘small flame’	<i>tuli</i> ‘light’	<i>tuluke</i> ‘light’	I
		–	<i>leek</i> ‘flame’	–	E
3.	<i>mājiņa</i> ‘house’	<i>vāike maja</i> ‘small house’	<i>maja</i> ‘house’, <i>osmik</i> ‘hovel’	–	I
4.	<i>manēžiņa</i> ‘manege’	<i>vāike maneež</i> ‘small manege’	–	–	B-P
5.	<i>oliņa</i> ‘egg’	<i>vāike muna</i> ‘small egg’	–	–	I
6.	<i>radībiņa</i> ‘creature’	<i>vāike olevus</i> ‘little creature’	–	–	B-P
7.	<i>pacīņa</i> ‘package’	<i>vāike pakk</i> ‘small package’	–	<i>pakike</i> ‘package’	I
		–	<i>pakk</i> ‘package’	–	E
		–	<i>pakend</i> ‘package’	–	B-P

Table 5. Latvian diminutives and their translations into Estonian by *vāike* ‘small’ + noun, common noun and/or suffix *-ke(ne)*

the previous examples, also in these cases there were words that had either mainly one counterpart (*vāike* ‘small’) or a regular noun in parallel. In two cases, the diminutive with the suffix *-ke* was also used in translation.

Considering the number of diminutives in the study, the words translated with the adjective *vāike* ‘small’ account for a mere 1.9 % of the total. This is quite a small amount, since there are considerably more variants with the suffix *-ke(ne)*. Example (15b) could have incorporated a diminutive *majake* ‘little house’, but the translator decided to use the adjective *vāike* ‘small’.

- (15) a. *Eleonora* *kā* *allaž* *dzīvojuši* *savā*
 Eleonora.NOM.SG as always live.PTCP.F own.LOC.SG
māj-iņ-ā *pie* *upes* [..]
 house-DIM-LOC.SG PREP river.GEN.SG
 ‘As always, Eleonora lived in her little house by the river [..]’ (I, 1998)

- b. *Eleonora* *oli* *nagu* *ikka* *elanud*
 Eleonora.NOM.SG be.PST.3SG as usual live.PTCP
oma *vāikeses* *majas* *jõe* *āāres* [..]
 own small.INE.SG house.INE.SG river.GEN.SG POSTP
 ‘As always, Eleonora lived in her little house by the river [..]’ (I, 2003)

However, whenever the Latvian sentence contains the adjective *mazs* ‘small’ as demonstrated in example (16a), the adjective is translated into Estonian also by the adjective *vāike* ‘small’ as in example (16b). While this adjective appeared to serve as the counterpart to the diminutive, it is, in reality, a translation of the Latvian adjective. Therefore, the diminutive is translated into the base word.

- (16) a. *Klusējot* *man* *ierādīja* *mazu*
 be_silent.PTCP 1.DAT.SG PREF.show.PST.3 small.ACC.SG
istab-iņ-u [..]
 room-DIM-ACC.SG
 ‘In silence, I was shown a small room [..]’ (I, 1998)
- b. *Vaikīdēs* *nāidati* *mulle* *kätte* *vāike*
 be_silent.PTCP show.PASS 1.ALL.SG PERF small.NOM.SG
tuba [..]
 room.NOM.SG
 ‘In silence, I was shown a small room [..]’ (I, 2003)

While the adjective *vāike* ‘small’ serves as a highly appropriate choice for articulating diminutive quality, this particular word remained relatively infrequently used as a translation of the Latvian diminutive.

3.4. Adjective *pīsi-* ‘tiny’ and noun compound

In the research material, a singular example emerged where the meaning of the diminutive was transferred by means of the adjective *pīsi-* ‘tiny’ and a noun

compound. Namely, the diminutive *zilonītis* ‘elephant’ (example 17a) was translated into Estonian as *pisielevant* ‘tiny elephant’ (example 17b).

- (17) a. *Alvīne bieži, apnicīgi bieži kavējās atmiņās par Riču – no apziņas dziļumiem izcēla aizmirstības putekļiem klātus sīkumus, apslaucīja, lika rindiņā un vaļas brīžos pārcilāja kā porcelāna zilon-īš-us [..]*
 PREF-lift.PST.3 like porcelain.GEN.SG elephant-DIM-ACC.PL
 ‘Alvīne often, tediously often lingered over the memories of Ričs – she picked up small things covered in the dust of oblivion from the depths of her consciousness, swept them, put them in a row and, in her spare moments, lifted them up like little porcelain elephants [..]’ (E, 1972)
- b. *Sageli, tūitult sageli meenutas Alvīne mälestusi Ričist – kiskus teadvuse pōhjast ūles unustusetolmuga kaetud piasju, pūhkis puhtaks, seadis ritta ja vabal ajal tōstis neid nagu portselanist pisi-elevante [..]*
 lift.PST.3SG they.PART like porcelain.ELA.SG tiny-elephant.PART.PL
 ‘Often, annoyingly often, Alvīne recalled memories of Ričs – she plucked small things covered with dust of oblivion from the bottom of her consciousness, wiped them clean, arranged them in a row and in her spare time, lifted them like tiny porcelain elephants [..]’ (E, 1990)

According to Kasik (2015, 241), the adjective *pisi-* ‘tiny’ with a noun compound is a less established lexeme than the adjective *vāike* ‘small’. This can also be seen in the studied material, where only one example with the adjective *pisi-* ‘tiny’ and noun compound was found.

3.5. Noun complement

A separate group is made of examples where nouns contribute to signifying smallness – these are referred to as complementary nouns. While these words are not categorized as diminutives, they possess an inherent suggestion of diminutive significance. For instance, the Latvian diminutive *somiņa* ‘small bag’ is translated into Estonian by adding the word *kāsi* ‘hand’, thus forming a compound *kāekott* ‘handbag’. This compound seems justified, as handbags are inherently smaller than regular bags. Similarly, the diminutive *karotiņe* ‘small spoon’ is rendered in Estonian as *teelusikas* ‘teaspoon’, where the noun *tee-* ‘tea’ conveys that the teaspoon is smaller in size than a standard spoon. Furthermore, the diminutive *skapītis* ‘small cabinet’ (example 18a) is translated as *öökapp* ‘nightstand’ (example 18b), where the noun *öö-* ‘night’ also pertains to the kind of cabinet – specifically, a nightstand.

To avoid the repetition of the word *öö* ‘night’ (example 18b) in a sentence involving both diminutive *skapītis* ‘small cabinet’ and *naktslampiņa* ‘night lamp’ (example 18a), the translation is structured in a manner wherein only one word encapsulates the notion of diminutiveness. Even though the adjective *maza* ‘small’ is already present in Latvian, it is additionally translated into Estonian, effectively conveying that there is a *small lamp* on top of the *nightstand*.

- (18) a. *Telpas dziļumā, kur uz skap-īš-a*
 room.GEN.SG depth.LOC.SG were PREP cabinet-DIM-GEN.SG
blāvi dega maza naktslamp-iņ-a [..]
 dimly glow.PST.3 small.NOM.SG night_lamp-DIM-NOM.SG
 ‘In the depths of the room, where a small night lamp glowed dimly on the cabinet [..]’ (E, 1972)
- b. *Toa sūgavuses, kus öökakil põles*
 room.GEN.SG depth.INE.SG were night_stand.ADE.SG glow.PST.3SG
tuhmilt väike lamp [..]
 dimly small.NOM.SG lamp.NOM.SG
 ‘In the depths of the room, where a small bedside lamp glowed dimly on the nightstand [..]’ (E, 1990)

Although it is possible to form diminutives in Estonian such as *kotike* ‘small bag’ and *kapike* ‘small cabinet’, these words were not used as a translation of the Latvian diminutives. Latvian diminutives *somiņa* ‘little bag’ and *skapītis* ‘small cabinet’ do not inherently refer to *teaspoon* and *nightstand*. They can also be the same objects, just smaller in size, for instance, when discussing children’s toys or furniture. Therefore, the decision to translate them as *teaspoon* and *nightstand* is context-dependent and warranted by the surrounding narrative. The word *lusikake* ‘small spoon’ is not extensively prevalent, the adjective combination *väike lusikas* ‘small spoon’ may be used, as well.

3.6. No translation of diminutive

While most Latvian diminutives were not translated into Estonian and were not discussed in this study, two instances stood out prominently. In the first case, the Latvian diminutive *krūzīte* ‘little cup’ (example 19a) was not translated into Estonian at all (example 19b). This can be explained by the contextual dynamics – it is customary to pour tea into cups or mugs and not into other vessels.

- (19) a. *Laura ielēja krūz-īt-ē tēju.*
 Laura.NOM PREF-pour.PST.3 cup-DIM-LOC.SG tea.ACC.SG
 ‘Laura poured tea into a cup.’ (E, 1972)
- b. *Laura kallas teed.*
 Laura.NOM pour.PST.3SG tea.PART.SG
 ‘Laura poured some tea.’ (E, 1990)

In another example, the base word *peļķe* ‘puddle’ and its diminutive form *peļķīte* ‘small puddle’ were used side by side in a Latvian sentence (example 20a). In the Estonian translation (example 20b) a choice was made to exclude one of the words while retaining the other. The distinction between whether the regular noun or the diminutive was used in translation remains somewhat ambiguous.

- (20) a. *Katrā grambā pēc lietus mirdzēja*
 each.LOC.SG pothole.LOC.SG PREP rain.GEN.SG glisten.PST.3

peļķes *un* *peļķ-īt-es* [..]
 puddle.NOM.PL and puddle-DIM-NOM.PL

‘In every pothole, puddles and smaller puddles glistened after the rain [..]’
 (E, 1972)

b. *Igas* *lohus* *sārasid* *pārast* *vihma*
 each.INE.SG pothole.INE.SG glisten.PST.3PL PREP rain.PART.SG
loigud [..]
 puddle.NOM.PL

‘In every pothole, puddles glistened after the rain [..]’ (E, 1990)

The Latvian example conveys the impression that varying sizes of puddles existed at this location, yet the translator opted for not addressing this potential distinction, despite the availability of alternative linguistic choices.

Conclusion

The primary objective of this study has been to find out how many diminutives are found within three works of Latvian fiction and to determine the extent of translation and the equivalents used in rendering these diminutive constructs into Estonian. Only nouns and those Latvian diminutives with *-(t)īņ-* and *-īt-* suffixes were examined.

The research results revealed that a total of 308 Latvian diminutives appeared in three works of fiction. Most of the diminutives were translated into Estonian by a regular noun. In the remaining cases, diminutives were translated using different methods: either by translating into a diminutive with the suffix *-ke(ne)*, a diminutive with the suffix *-u-* or words that indicate child speech, using the adjective *vāike* ‘small’ or the compound of adjective *pisi-* ‘tiny’ and a noun, or with the addition of a complement noun indicating smallness.

The analysis reveals the complexity associated with establishing a singular form for translating diminutives. Frequently, the Latvian diminutive was translated by using the derivative with the suffix *-ke(ne)*, and in parallel – as a regular noun.

Indeed, the translator’s choice undoubtedly comes into play when translating the text. The determination is largely influenced by contextual variables, sentence structure, and the linguistic intuition of translators as proficient native speakers. Despite the availability of appropriate structures for conveying diminutive forms within the Estonian language, this study reveals a prevailing tendency wherein Latvian diminutive nouns are largely substituted with regular nouns in Estonian.

Within the scope of the study, the source text is based on Latvian, however, an alternative avenue of exploration could involve investigating the outcomes when the source text would be Estonian.

Abbreviations

1, 2, 3	person
ABE	abessive
ABL	ablative
ACC	accusative
ADE	adessive
ALL	allative
COM	comitative
DAT	dative
DEF	definite
DIM	diminutive
ELA	elative
ESS	essive
F	feminine
GEN	genitive
ILL	illative
INE	inessive
INS	instrumental
LOC	locative
M	masculine
NOM	nominative
PART	partitive
PASS	passive
PERF	perfectivity
PL	plural
POST	postposition
PREF	prefix
PREP	preposition
PRS	present
PST	past
PTCP	participle
SG	singular
VOC	vocative

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Kopsavilkums

Pētījumā galvenā uzmanība pievērsta latviešu deminutīvu tulkošanai igauņu valodā. Ar deminutīvu tiek izteikts priekšmeta vai parādības pamazinājums, mīļums, maigums un pat dažreiz nievājoša nozīme (Erelt et al. 1995; Vulāne 2015; Kasik 2015; Kalnača 2015). Igauni, kuri tulko latviešu literatūru, ir norādījuši, ka latviešu valodā biežāk nekā igauņu valodā sastopami deminutīvi un tādēļ tos igauņu valodā nevajadzētu vienmēr tulkot. Šī pētījuma mērķis bija izpētīt, cik latviešu deminutīvu var atrast trijos latviešu daiļliteratūras darbos un cik un kā tie ir tulkoti igauņu valodā. Atlasīti tika tikai deminutīvi lietvārdi ar piedēkļiem *-(t)iņ-* un *-īl-*. Pētījuma rezultāti liecina, ka latviešu valodas deminutīvi igauņu valodā netiek tulkoti ļoti bieži, un deminutīva galvenais ekvivalents bieži ir pamatvārds. Taču gadījumos, kad tiek tulkots deminutīvs, var novērot dažādas pieejas.

Atslēgvārdi: deminutīvi; sastatāmā analīze; tulkošana; daiļliteratūra; latviešu valoda; igauņu valoda.



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