Impersonal Forms and their Paraphrases in Welsh

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0. Introduction
Welsh verbs have special forms, called the impersonal form like (1), where the verb siarad ‘speak’ is conjugated into the present impersonal form siaredir ‘one speaks’ / ‘is spoken’. They are sometimes translated into English with the passive construction (‘be done’), but according to King (2003: 224), ‘they convey the idea of the general action of the verb without specifying who or what is doing it’. It is sometimes said that the function of the impersonal form in Celtic languages resembles that of the impersonal pronoun on¹ ‘one’ in French.

1-cy)  
\[ \text{Siaredir Cymraeg fan hyn} \]
\[ \text{siarad-ir} \quad \text{Cymraeg} \quad \text{1-man} \quad \text{hyn} \]
\[ \text{speak-PRES.IMPERS} \quad \text{Welsh.F} \quad \text{DSJTV-place.F} \quad \text{this} \]
\[ \text{‘One speaks Welsh here’ / ‘Welsh is spoken here’} \]

[King (2003: 225)]

The impersonal form is one of the remarkable features which Celtic languages have in common, but it is not used in Colloquial Welsh very often. Then, in this paper, the author would like to consider how impersonal clauses with the impersonal pronoun on ‘one’ in French are translated into Welsh, through a contrastive study with French, using a famous novel Le Petit Prince and its Welsh translation Y Tywysog Bach.

Please note that all the analyses, the glosses and the translations in this paper are mine. Abbreviations after example numbers denote a name of languages (cy: Cymraeg ‘Welsh’ / fr: Français ‘French’).

1. Welsh Language
1.1. Overview
The Welsh language (Cymraeg) belongs to the Celtic branch of the Indo-European family. In detail, as shown in Figure 1, it composes the Brittonic languages of the Insular Celtic, with Cornish (Kernewek) and Breton (Brezhoneg). In the other branch of the Insular Celtic – Goidelic languages,

¹ Derives from the Latin word HOMÔ ‘man’ (nominative singular) and constitutes a doublet with the ordinary noun homme ‘man’, which derives from the accusative form HOMINEM.
Irish (Gaeilge), Scottish Gaelic (Gàidhlig) and Manx (Gaelg) are known.

Welsh is spoken in Wales in the United Kingdom. According to ethnologue its number of speakers is 562,000 (2011) and according to UNESCO it is 750,000 (labelled as ‘vulnerable’). It is the most vigorous language among the Celtic languages. Note that, according to the Welsh government, the population of Wales is 3,113,000 (2016).

1.2. Grammatical Features
Some remarkable features in Welsh are given below.

i) The basic word order is VSO
   e.g. Gwelodd y ddynes ddraig ‘The woman saw a dragon’ (lit. ‘Saw the woman dragon’)

ii) Adjectives are postposed
   e.g. y tywysog bach ‘the little prince’ (lit. ‘the prince little’)

iii) Initial consonants are changed in particular circumstances (initial mutation)
   e.g. merch ‘a girl’ > y ferch ‘the girl’
   There are three types of mutation: Lenition, Nasalisation and Aspirantisation (see Abbreviations and Symbols).

iv) Some prepositions are conjugated according to the person and number
   e.g. ar ‘on’ > arnaf i ‘on me’

2. Previous Researches
2.1. Welsh Impersonal Form
2.1.1. Background Knowledge
The impersonal form (also referred to as autonomous form) of verbs is a very characteristic feature
which Celtic languages have in common, as Hewitt (2002) says:

All the Celtic languages have “impersonal” verb forms in -r and -d. In English-language Celtic studies, the term “autonomous” is also used. These forms are said to be related to the “passive” conjugation of Latin (-itur²), but there is only one form per tense (at least in the modern languages);

[cited from Hewitt (2002: 15)]

In other words, verbs in many languages have six forms per tense (conjugated for three persons and two numbers), but Welsh verbs have seven forms per tense in addition to those six, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Present tense of canu ‘sing’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SG</th>
<th>PL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1ST</td>
<td>canaf [can-af]</td>
<td>canwn [can-wn]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2ND</td>
<td>ceni [can-i]</td>
<td>cenwch [can-iwch]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3RD</td>
<td>cân [can-Ø]</td>
<td>canant [can-ant]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMPERSONAL</td>
<td>cenir [can-iR]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Thomas (1992: 311); morpheme analysis mine]

2.1.2. King (2003)

Descriptions in this section are based on King (2003).

One single argument in clauses with an impersonal form is interpreted as a subject, not an object.

At first, in Welsh, direct objects in the clause are lenited (this function of the lenition is glossed as disjunctive in this paper, which means that it is not conjunctive to the verb), while subjects remain unchanged.

Then, when a personal form is used, the initial consonant of a direct object is lenited like (2). To the contrary, when an impersonal form is used, the initial consonant of a following argument is not lenited like (3), so that it is a subject.

2-cy) *Fe drefnodd gyfarfod*

fe¹ trefn-odd ¹-cyfarfod

POS  organise-PST.3SG  DSJTV-meeting.M

‘He/She organised a meeting’

[King (2003: 225)]

² -itur is the indicative passive present third person singular form: e.g. emō ‘I buy’ > emitur ‘it is bought’
3-cy)  *Fe drefnwyd cyfarfod*

feL  trefn-wyd  cyfarfod

POS  organise-PST.IMPERS  meeting.M

‘One organised a meeting’ / ‘A meeting was organised’

[King (2003: 225)]

In addition, an agent can be expressed by the preposition *gan* ‘with’ like (4).

4-cy)  *Ataliwyd dwsin o geir gan yr heddlu yn y Bala neithiwr*

atali-wyd  dwsin  o1  car1  gan  yr  heddlu  yn  yr  Bala  neithiwr

stop-PST.IMPERS  dozen.M  of  car.M-PL  with  DEF  police.M  in  DEF  Bala.M  last.night

‘A dozen of cars were stopped by the police in Bala last night’

[King (2003: 226)]

That is, one single argument in the clause with an impersonal form is a grammatical subject and an oblique agent phrase can be used there. In this point, this construction may seem to be a passive one, but it can be applied to intransitive verbs like (5).

5-cy)  *Eir yno yn gyson dros yr Nadolig*

e-ir  yno  yn1  cyson  dros  yr  Nadolig

go-PRES.IMPERS  there  ADV  constant  over  DEF  Christmas.M

‘One often goes there over Christmas’

[King (2003: 226)]

Thus, the essential function of the impersonal form is not a passive and it simply indicates that the agent in the clause is not specified for some reason.

2.1.3. In Colloquial Welsh

It is known that Welsh has two styles: literary and colloquial language. Concerning the situation of the impersonal form in Colloquial Welsh, King (2003) says:

These forms, which it is important to know at least for recognition purposes, are found primarily in newspapers and in the media. However, they are not unknown in ordinary speech, and reports of their demise are, certainly for many dialects, premature.

This method avoids any use of *cael*³, and involves adding endings to the verb, therefore the verb-stem is required for this. In the modern language only non-past (-ir) and past (-wyd) are available, so any other tenses

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³ Means ‘get’ and is used to form a passive clause.
have to be formed using cael anyway.

[King (2003: 224)]

In addition, Hewitt (2002) says:

It should be added that in Welsh, these forms are emphatically part of the literary register, and apart from a handful of set phrases, are rarely heard in spontaneous conversation.

[Hewitt (2002: 17)]

In other words, it is said that the impersonal form is less used in Colloquial Welsh.

2.2. Impersonal Clauses with the Impersonal Pronoun on ‘one’ in French

Descriptions in this section are based on Byrne and Churchill (1986).

The impersonal pronoun on ‘one’ can be used only as the subject and refers to a person or persons unspecified. In addition, it is frequently found where English has a passive like (6-fr).

Note that, in this paper, the singular number of nouns or adjectives and the present tense and the indicative mood of verbs in French are regarded to be morphologically unmarked, so that these three categories are omitted in the gloss.

6-fr) *Ici on parle français*

ici on parl-e françai
here IMPERS speak-3SG French.M

‘Here *one* speaks French’ / ‘Here French is spoken’

[Byrne and Churchill (1986: 204)]

This pronoun is often used as the equivalent of any personal pronoun (particularly of *nous* ‘we’) like (7-fr).

7-fr) *On a été contents de vous voir:*

on a-Ø ét-Ø content-Ø-s de vous voir
IMPERS have-3SG be-PTCP.PST-M satisfied-M-PL of 2PL.ACC see-INF

‘We were satisfied to see you’

[Byrne and Churchill (1986: 204)]

In the literary language, the definite article is frequently added to on ‘one’ after a word ending in a vowel like (8-fr).
3. Corpus and Methodology

In the research of this paper, data will be retrieved from a novel originally written in French, *Le Petit Prince* and its Welsh translation *Y Tywysog Bach* (see below).

Table 2: Corpus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>language</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>ID</th>
<th>pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td><em>Le Petit Prince</em></td>
<td>PP-fr</td>
<td>9-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welsh</td>
<td><em>Y Tywysog Bach</em></td>
<td>PP-cy</td>
<td>9-95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, there is a problem: as already mentioned above, concerning Welsh, the literary language and the colloquial language are very different from each other and one can observe the difference between the two registers in the morphology, the syntax and even grammatical categories. For example, Tomas (1992) gives some examples to contrast them: (9-cy) is the literary language and (10-cy) is the colloquial language (one of the northern dialects).

9-cy) Nid yw ef yn mynd

\[
\text{Nid yw ef yn mynd} \\
\text{NEG be.PRS.3SG 3SG in go.VN}
\]

‘He is not going’

[Tomas (1992: 264)]

10-cy) Dydi o ddim yn mynd

\[
\text{Dydi o ddim yn mynd} \\
\text{NEG-be.PRS.3SG 3SG DTV-NEG in go.VN}
\]

‘He is not going’

[Tomas (1992: 264)]

The Welsh version of the novel is written in the colloquial form, where the impersonal form of verbs is less likely to be used, as already seen in §2.1.3. Consequently, only eight examples of the impersonal form are found through the book. In other words, many original constructions with the

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4 In the dialect of the novel, it should be *Dydy e ddim yn mynd.*
impersonal pronoun *on* ‘one’ in French, which could be translated into Welsh with the impersonal form, are in fact translated with other constructions than those with the impersonal form.

Then, in this paper, the author would like to consider how impersonal clauses with the impersonal pronoun *on* ‘one’ (including *l’on* ‘the one’) in French are translated into Welsh.

4. Result
The result of the research is given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>construction (subject)</th>
<th>frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>second person plural</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>dyn</em> ‘man’</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>first person plural</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>third person singular</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>neb</em> ‘no one’</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>impersonal form</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>third person plural</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>miscellaneous pronouns</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other constructions</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unanalysable</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1. Impersonal Form
First, I will consider the three cases where the impersonal pronoun *on* ‘one’ in the original French text is translated into Welsh with the impersonal form, which are the most relevant in this paper. In all the three cases, the verb *gallu* ‘can’ is conjugated into the impersonal form in the Welsh text, and there, a notion of ‘possibility’ or ‘ability’ can be observed like (11). In this case, you can see the modal verb *pouvoir* ‘can’ in the original French text.

11-fr) *On pourrait entasser l’humanité sur le moindre petit îlot du Pacifique.*

*On* pour-r-ai-t entass-er la humanité sur le moindre-Ø petit-Ø

*IMPERS* can-FS-COND-3SG pile-INF DEF.F humanity.F on DEF.M least-M little-M

*îlot* de+le Pacifique

*îlot* de+le Pacific.M

‘*One* can pile the humanity on the smallest islet of the Pacific’

[PP-fr: XVII]
11-cy) **Gellid** crynhoi’r ddynoliaeth i gyd ar yr ynys fach leiaf yn y Môr Tawel.

**One could** gather the humanity altogether on the smallest island on the Pacific Ocean

[PP-cy: XVII]

In the other two examples, the modal verb *pouvoir* ‘can’ does not appear in the original French text, but there seems to be a notion of ‘possibility’ or ‘ability’, judged from the context.

12-fr) — *Les étoiles sont belles, à cause d’une fleur que l’on ne voit pas*...

‘— The stars are beautiful, because of a flower which one does not see...’

[PP-fr: XXIV]

12-cy) “*Mae’r sêr yn hardd o achos blodyn na ellir mo’i weld.*”

‘The stars are beautiful because of a flower which one cannot see’*

[PP-cy: XXIV]

13-fr) *il y en a des centaines d’autres qui sont quelquefois si petites qu’on a beaucoup de mal à les apercevoir au télescope.*

‘there are hundreds of others which are sometimes so little that one has many difficulties to see them in the telescope’

[PP-fr: IV]
13-cy) *Maen nhw’n blanedau mor fychan ambell waith fel mai prin y *gellir eu gweld ag ysbienddrych.*

`be-PRS.3PL 3PL ADV planet.IMPERS 3PL.POSS see-VN at telescope.M`

‘They are too little planets sometimes as **one can** hardly see with a telescope’

[PP-cy: IV]

King (2003) says that the impersonal form of the verb *gallu* ‘can’ is a feature in the written language rather than the spoken one, but he argues this verb in a separate section. The description of King (2003) and the result of the research in this paper may suggest that the impersonal form of this verb can be used more frequently than others.

4.2. Second Person Plural

Then, I will consider the cases where the impersonal pronoun *on* ‘one’ in the original French text is translated into Welsh with the second person plural subject. As a whole, 22 examples with such a construction are retrieved. For example:

14-fr) *C’est très utile, si l’on est égaré pendant la nuit.*

```plaintext
ce es-t très utile-O si le on es-t égaré-O pendant la nuit
```

‘It is very useful, if **one** is stray during the night’

[PP-fr: I]

14-cy) *Gall hyn fod yn ddefnyddiol iawn pan fyddwch chi wedi colli eich fforedd yn y nos.*

```plaintext
gall-O hyn L-bod yn defnyddiol iawn panL bydd-wch chi wedi5
can-PRS.3SG this DSJTV-be.VN ADV useful very when be-FUT.2PL 2PL after
coll-i eich ffordd yn yr nos
```

‘This can be very useful when **you will have** lost your way in the night’

[PP-cy: I]

It can be said that this type of paraphrase is the most frequent one, based on the result. In such cases, it seems that general events are described, which is parallel to the generic use of *you* in English, and this feature is very different from the next one, the case with the first person plural subject.

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5 The construction *bod* ‘be’ + *wedi* ‘after’ + verbal noun (‘be after doing’) constitutes the **perfect** form (‘have done’), while the construction *bod* ‘be’ + *yn* ‘in’ + verbal noun (‘be in doing’) constitutes the **non-perfect** form.
4.3. First Person Plural

Here, I will consider the cases where the impersonal pronoun *on* ‘one’ in the original French text is translated into Welsh with the first person plural subject. As a whole, six examples with such a construction are retrieved. For example:

15-fr) *Mais on exige de l’explorateur qu’il fournisse des preuves.*

```
mais on exig-e de le explorateur que il fourniss-e
de+le-s preuve-s of+DEF-PL proof.F-PL
```

‘But **one** demands of the explorer that he supply proofs’

[PP-fr: XV]

15-cy) *Ond fe fyddwn ni’n gofyn i’r ffioriwr ddod â thystiolaeth i ni.*

```
ond fe bydd-wn ni yn gofyn-Ø i yr ffioriwr ÿ-dod âH
but POs be-FUT.1PL 1PL in demand-VN to DEF explorer DSJTV=come.VN with
tystiolaeth i ni
 evidence.F to 1PL
```

‘But **we** will demand to the explorer to come with an evidence for us’

[PP-cy: XV]

Contrary to the last one, the second person plural subject, it seems that more concrete events are described in these examples, i.e. with a concrete subject *we*. As already seen in §2.2., the impersonal pronoun *on* ‘one’ in French can be used as the equivalent to *nous* ‘we’.

4.4. Third Person Plural

There is only one example where the impersonal pronoun *on* ‘one’ in the original French text is translated into Welsh with the third person plural subject. For example:

16-fr) *On note d’abord au crayon les récits des explorateurs.*

```
on not-e de abord à+le crayon le-s récit-s de+le-s
IMPERS note-3SG of arrival.M to+DEF.M pensil.M DEF-PL account.M-PL of+DEF-PL
explorateur-s explorer.M-PL
```

‘**One** notes first with the pencil the explorers’ accounts’

[PP-fr: XV]
In this case, it seems that a more concrete event is described like (15) in the previous section, with the first person plural subject. However, this is uttered by the narrator who does not belong to the group indicated by the impersonal pronoun on ‘one’ (= geographers).

4.5. **dyn ‘man’**

There are seven examples where the impersonal pronoun on ‘one’ in the original French text is translated into Welsh with the noun dyn ‘man’ as a subject. For example:

16-cy) *Mewn pensil y byddan nhw’n nodi adroddiadau’r fforwyr i ddechrau.*

‘It is in the pensil that they will note the explorers’ accounts at first’

[PP-cy: XV]

17-fr) *Millions de ces petites choses que l’on voit quelquefois dans le ciel.*

‘Millions of these small things that one sees sometimes in the sky’

[PP-fr: XIII]

17-cy) “**Miliynau o’r pethau bach mae dyn yn eu gweld weithiau yn yr awyr.”**

‘Millions of the small things that man sees (them) sometimes in the sky’

[PP-cy: XIII]

It can be said that this type of paraphrase is the second most frequent one, based on the result. In addition, there are another three examples where the impersonal pronoun on ‘one’ in the original text corresponds to the third person singular masculine pronoun e ‘he’ (classified into ‘third person singular’ in Table 3 in §4), which refers to dyn ‘man’ in the preceding clause or sentence.

For example, there are two instances of the impersonal pronoun on ‘one’ in (18-fr) and the first one is translated into Welsh as dyn ‘man’, while the second one into e ‘he’, in (18-cy). In the Welsh
example, the personal pronoun `he` referring to the noun `dyn` `man` in the preceding clause is used to avoid repeating it.

18-fr) — *Tu sais... quand on est tellement triste on aime les couchers de soleil...*

\[
\begin{array}{l}
tu &\text{know-2SG} \\
\text{quand} &\text{when} \\
on &\text{be-3SG} \\
tellement &\text{so} \\
\text{triste-Ø} &\text{IMPERS} \\
on &\text{love-3SG} \\
\text{on} &\text{le-s} \\
\text{coucher-s} &\text{setting-M.PL} \\
de soleil &\text{of sun,M} \\
\end{array}
\]

`‘— Thou knowest... when one is so sad one loves the settings of sun...’`

[PP-fr: VI]

18-cy) “*Wyddost ti, pan mae dyn yn drist iawn mae e ’n hoffi gweld yr haul yn machlud.’*

\[
\begin{array}{l}
gwyddost-Ø &\text{know-PRS.2SG} \\
ti &\text{2SG.NOM} \\
\text{pan} &\text{when} \\
mae &\text{be-PRS.3SG} \\
dyn &\text{man,M} \\
yn &\text{ADV} \\
drist &\text{very} \\
iawn &\text{be-PRS.3SG} \\
mae-Ø &\text{3SG.M} \\
e &\text{IMPERS} \\
yn &\text{in} \\
hoff-i &\text{see-VN} \\
gwel-d &\text{DEF} \\
\text{yr} &\text{sun,M} \\
haul &\text{in} \\
yn &\text{set-VN} \\
machlud-Ø &\text{DEF} \\
in &\text{sun,M} \\
\end{array}
\]

`‘Doest thou know, when a man is very sad he likes to see the sun setting’`

[PP-cy: VI]

In total, it can be said that ten examples have the noun `dyn` `man` as a subject.

Semantically, it seems that general events are described in such cases, but the difference between constructions with the second person plural subject in §4.2 and those with the noun `dyn` `man` in this section is not clear, at least in this paper.

4. 6. *nrb* ‘no one’

Then, there are five examples where the impersonal pronoun `on` ‘one’ in the original French text is translated into Welsh with the pronoun `nrb` ‘no one’. This pronoun is normally used in the negative clause (so that glossed as ‘no one’ in this paper) and all the five examples are negative ones. For instance:

19-fr) *On ne peut pas mourir pour vous.*

\[
\begin{array}{l}
on &\text{IMPERS} \\
ne &\text{NEG} \\
peu-t &\text{can-3SG} \\
pas &\text{NEG} \\
mour-ir &\text{die-INF} \\
pour &\text{for} \\
vous &\text{2PL.EMP} \\
\end{array}
\]

`‘One cannot die for you’`

[PP-fr: XXI]
19-cy) “All **nep** farw drosoch chi.

1. gall-Ø **nep** 1-marw-Ø dros-oeh chi

NEG can-PRS.3SG no-one DSJTV-die-VN over-2PL 2PL

‘**No one** can die for you’

[PP-cy: XXI]

Among them, the three examples contain a notion of ‘possibility’ or ‘ability’ in the context, like those with the impersonal form of **gallu** ‘can’. King (2003) says that the negative form of the impersonal form of **gallu** ‘can’ is less frequent than the positive form. It might be concluded that some negative clauses with the pronoun **nep** ‘someone’ retrieved from the text correspond to the positive clauses with the impersonal form of **gallu** ‘can’.

In the following example, on the contrary, a notion of ‘possibility’ or ‘ability’ is not included. In this case, the adverb **jamais** ‘never’ in the original French text may cause such a translation (however, not all clauses with **jamais** ‘never’ are translated into Welsh with the pronoun **nep** ‘no one’)

20-fr) — **On** n’est jamais content là où l’**on** est, dit l’aiguilleur.

on ne es-t jamais content-Ø là où le on es-t

IMPERSON NEG be-3SG never pleased-M there where DEF.M IMPERSON be-3SG
d-i-t le aiguilleur

say-PST-3SG DEF.M signalman.M

‘— **One** is never pleased there where **one** is, said the signalman’

[PP-fr: XXII]

20-cy) “**Does nep** byth yn hapus yn y fan lle mae e,” meddai dyn y rheilffordd.

d-oes **nep** byth yn hapus yn yr1 man lle mae-Ø

NEG-be.PRS.3SG no.one yet ADV happy in DEF place.F where be-PRS.3SG
e meddai dyn yr rheilffordd

3SG.M say:DFCTV man.M DEF railway.F

‘“**No one** is ever happy in the place where **he** is,” said the railway man’

[PP-cy: XXII]

Note that in the example above, there are two instances of the impersonal pronoun **on** ‘one’ in (20-fr) and the first one is translated into Welsh as **nep** ‘no one’, while the second one into the third person singular masculine pronoun **e** ‘he’, in (20-cy). Therefore, it can be said that six examples have the pronoun **nep** ‘no one’ as a counterpart of the impersonal pronoun **on** ‘one’ in French, in total.
4.7. Third Person Singular

There are six examples where the impersonal pronoun on ‘one’ in the original French text is translated into Welsh with the third person singular pronoun as a subject. As already seen in §4.5 and in §4.6, four instances of the third person singular masculine pronoun e ‘he’ are retrieved from the text, three of which refer to the noun dyn ‘man’ and one of which refers to the pronoun neb ‘one’ in preceding clauses.

Then, in the other two examples, the third person singular feminine pronoun hi ‘she’ is used and refers to the noun bobl ‘people’, which is a feminine noun, in the preceding clause, as follows:

21-fr) On est un peu seul dans le désert...

On est un peu seul dans le désert...

‘One is a little lonely in the desert...’

[PP-fr: XVII]

21-cy) “Mae hi braidd yn unig yn y diffeithdir.”

Mae hi braidd yn unig yn yr diffeithdir

‘She (= people) is a little lonely in the desert’

[PP-cy: XVII]

4.8. Miscellaneous Pronouns

In five examples, other pronouns are used as a translation of the impersonal pronoun on ‘one’ in the original French text. Various pronouns are retrieved from the research, but they are difficult to be generalised, so that just one example of them (rhywun ‘someone’) is given below:

22-fr) Donc, quand la moralité de l’explorateur paraît bonne, on fait une enquête sur sa découverte.

Donc, quand la moralité de l’explorateur paraît bonne, on fait une enquête sur sa découverte.

‘Therefore, when the explorer’s morality appears good, one does an investigation about his discovery’

[PP-fr: XV]
22-cy) Yna, pan fo gonestrwydd y fforiwr yn ymddangos yn foddhaol, bydd **rhywun** yn ymchwilio i’w ddarganfyddiad.

then when be-SUBJ.3SG honesty.M DEF explorer.M in appear-VN ADV boddhaol bydd-Ø **rhywun** yn ymchwili-o i+ei dance acceptable be-FUT.3SG **someone**.M in research-VN to+3SG.M discovery.M

‘Then, when the explorer’s honesty appears acceptable, **someone** will research his discovery’

4.9. Other Constructions

Here, some of other constructions will be dealt with. First, in the following example, there is no element in Welsh which corresponds to the impersonal pronoun *on* ‘one’ in the original French text. In (23), the oblique phrase *dans le livre* ‘in the book’ in the original French text is treated as a grammatical subject in the Welsh translation and the use of the impersonal form is avoided:

23-fr) **On disait dans le livre:**

* on dis-ai-t dans le livre
  IMPERS say-IMPF.3SG in DEF.M book.M

‘**One** said in the book:’

23-cy) “(...) *meddai ‘r llýfr:*

* meddai yr llýfr
  say.DEFCTV DEF book.M

“(...) *said the book’

Then, in (24), the construction with the impersonal pronoun *on* ‘one’ in the original French text is translated into Welsh as a reflexive-like construction, where the subject *y planedau mawr* ‘the big planets’ refers to the direct object *eu* ‘their’

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6 The direct object of verbal nouns appears as a genitive construction or a possessive adjective.
24-fr) Je savais bien qu’en dehors des grosses planètes comme la Terre, Jupiter, Mars, Vénus, auxquelles on a donné des noms,

je sav-aï-s bien que en dehors de+le-s gross-e-s planète-s
1SG.NOM know-IMPF-1SG well CMPL in outside of+DEF-PL large-F-PL planet.F-PL

comme la Terre Jupiter Mars Vénus à+le-s=quell-e-s on
a-O donn-é-O de+le-s nom-s
have-3SG give-PTCP.PST-M of+DEF-PL name.M-PL

‘I knew well that apart from large planets like the Earth, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, to which one gave names,’

[PP-fr: IV]

24-cy) Fe wyddwn i’n iawn fod yna gannoedd o blanedau eraill heblaw’r planedau mawr sydd wedi eu henwi, megis y Ddaear, Iau, Mawrth a Gwener.

fe know-IMPF.1SG 1SG ADV real DSITV-be-VN there DSITV-hundred.M-PL of
planed-au arall.1 heblaw yr planed-au mawr-Ø sydd wedi eu.1
planet.F-PL other.PL except DEF planet.F-PL big-PL be.REL.DIR after 3PL.POSS
enw-i megis yr.1 Daear Iau Mawrth a Gwener

‘I really knew there being hundreds of other planets apart from large planets which have been named (lit. have named them(selves)), like the Earth, Jupiter, Mars and Venus’

[PP-cy: IV]

Examples classified as ‘Other Constructions’, again, are difficult to be generalised, so that no further consideration will be given in this paper.

5. Other Occurrence of Impersonal Form in Welsh
There are only two examples where the impersonal form in Welsh corresponds to the passive voice in the original French text. For example:

25-fr) Cet astéroïde n’a été aperçu qu’une fois au télescope, en 1909, par un astronome turc.

cet-Ø astéroïde ne a-O ét-é-O aperç-u-Ø que un-e
this-M asteroid.M NEG have-3SG be-PTCP.PST-M glance-PTCP.PST-M only INDEF-F
fois à+le télescope en 1909 par un-Ø astronome turc-Ø
time.F in+DEF.M telescope.M in 1909 by INDEF-M astronomer.M Turkish-M

‘This asteroid was glanced only one time in the telescope, in 1909, by a Turkish astronomer’

[PP-fr: IV]
25-cy) Dim ond unwaith, trwy ysbienddrych, y gwelwyd yr asteroid yma, a hynny ym 1909, gan seryddwr o Dwrci.

dim ond un\textsuperscript{t}=gwraith trwy ysbienddrych y gwel-wyd yr nothing.M but one\textsuperscript{t}=time.F through telescope.M REL.INDIR see-PST.IMPERS DEF asteroid yma a hynny ym 1909 gan seryddwr o\textsuperscript{1} L Twrci asteroid this and that.PL in 1909 with astronomer.M of Turkey.M

‘Only once, through a telescope, when this asteroid was seen, and in 1909, by an astronomer of Turkey’

[PP-cy: IV]

26-fr) Le cinquième jour, toujours grâce au mouton, ce secret de la vie du petit prince me fut révélé.

le cinqu\textsuperscript{ième} jour toujours grâce à le mouton ce-Ø secret DEF.M five-ORD.M day.M always grace.F to+DEF.M sheep.M this-Ø secret.M de la vie de+le petit-Ø prince me f-u-t révél-Ø of DEF.F life.F of+DEF.M little-M prince.M 1SG.DAT be-PST-3SG reveal-PTCP.PST-M

‘The fifth day, always thanks to the sheep, this secret of the little prince’s life was revealed to me’

[PP-fr: VII]

26-cy) Ar y pumed diwrnod, diolch eto i’r ddafad, datgelwyd y gyfrinach hon i fi am fywyd y tywysog bach.

ar y pum-Ø diwrnod diolch eto i yr\textsuperscript{t} dafad datgel-wyd on DEF five-ORD day.M thanks.M again to DEF sheep.F reveal-PST.IMPERS yr\textsuperscript{t} yfrinach hwn\textsuperscript{a} i fi am\textsuperscript{t} bywyd yr tywysog bach-Ø DEF secret.F this-Ø to 1SG about life.M DEF prince.M little-M

‘On the fifth day, thanks again to the sheep, this secret was revealed to me about the little prince’s life’

[PP-cy: VII]

However, approximately 30 passive clauses are retrieved from the original French text (although it is very difficult to judge whether the clause concerned is a passive construction like it is broken by him or an adjectival predication like he is tired) and it can be said that such a corresponding is rather rare.

Based on the data, the following two constructions are major ones when the passive construction in French is translated into Welsh: α) get-passive; β) activisation of the clause. Note that the former is presented as a passive construction in King (2003).

For example, the passive verb phrase avais été frappé (lit. ‘had been hit’) in the original French text is translated into Welsh with a construction with the verb cael ‘get’, in (27):
27-fr)  *J’ai sauté sur mes pieds comme si j’avais été frappé par la foudre.*

> Je ai saut-é-Ø sur me-s pied-s comme si je
> 1SG.NOM have.1SG jump-PTCP.PST-M on 1PL.POSS-PL foot.M-PL as if 1SG.NOM
> av-ai-s ét-é-Ø frapp-é-Ø par la foudre
> have-IMPF-1SG be-PTCP.PST-M hit-PTCP.PST-M by DEF.F lightning.F
>
> ‘I jumped on my feet as if I *were hit* by the lightning’

[PP-fr: II]

27-cy)  *Neidiais ar fy nhraed fel pe bawn i wedi cael fy nharo gan fellten.*

> Neidi-ais ar fyN traed fel pe ba-wn i wedi ca-el
> jump-PST.1SG on 1SG.POSS foot.M-PL as if be-COND.1SG 1SG after get-VN
> fyN tar-o ganI mellt-en
> 1SG.POSS strike-VN with lightning.F-SG
>
> ‘I jumped on my feet as if I *would have been struck* (lit. *I would have got me strike*) by a lightning’

[PP-cy: II]

Then, the passive verb phrase *avais été découragé* (lit. ‘had been discouraged’) in the original French text is translated into Welsh with activisation of the clause: the original subject *je* ‘I’ corresponds to the direct object *fy* ‘my’ in the translation and the original oblique agent phrase *par les grandes personnes* ‘by the adults’ to the subject *oedolion* ‘adults’ in (28):

28-fr)  *Je avais été découragé dans ma carrière de peintre par les grandes personnes à le âge de six ans*

> Je av-ai-s ét-é-Ø décourag-é-Ø dans ma carrière
> 1SG.NOM have-IMPF-1SG be-PTCP.PST-M discourag-PTCP.PST-M in 1SG.POSS,F career.F
> de peintre par le-s grand-e-s personne-s à le âge de six an-s
>
> ‘I *was discouraged* in my career of painter by the adults at the age of six years’

[PP-fr: II]

28-cy)  *Roedd oedolion wedi fy siomi yn fy ngyrfa fel arlunyydd pan oeddwn i’n chwech oed,*

> r-oedd-Ø oedol-ion wedi fy siom-i yn fyN gyrfa fel
> POS-be-IMPF.3SG adult.M-PL after 1SG.POSS disappoint-VN in 1SG.POSS career.F as
> arlunyydd pan oedd-wn i yn chwech oed
> painter.M when be-IMPF.1SG 1SG in six age.M
>
> ‘Adults *had disappointed* me in my career as a painter when I was six years old,’

[PP-cy: II]
Finally, the other three instances of the impersonal form in Welsh will be given below. In the following example, the causative verb phrase *fit trembler* ‘made shake’ in the original French text is translated into Welsh with the impersonal form *siglwyd* ‘was shaken’ (< *siglo* ‘shake’) and the original direct object *la cabine d’aiguillage* ‘the switching cabin’ corresponds to the subject *y caban signals* ‘the signaling cabin’.

29-fr) *Et un rapide illuminé, grondant comme le tonnerre, fit trembler la cabine d’aiguillage.*

*Siglwyd y caban signals gan ruo taranllyd trên cyflym, llawn golau.*

29-cy) *Je savais bien qu’il ne fallait pas l’interroger.*

In the following example, the impersonal construction *il ne fallait pas* (lit. ‘it must not’) in the original French text corresponds to the impersonal form *dyllid* ‘one ought to’ (< *dylu* ‘ought to’) in the Welsh translation. In King (2003), the impersonal form of this verb is argued in a separate section, as well as the case of *gallu* ‘can’, which was considered in §4.2.
30-cy) *Fe wyddwn yn iawn na ddylid ei holi.*

fePOS gwydd-wn POS yn ADV iawn IMPF 3SG.NOM naSG dyl-id COMPL ei ADV hol-i IMPERS

‘I knew well that one ought not to ask him’

In the last one, the impersonal form *elwir* ‘one gains’ (< *elwi* ‘gain’) is used in the Welsh translation, but there is no element corresponding to it in the original French text. Here, the constructions in the original text and those in the translation are quite different.

31-fr) *J’ai de sérieuses raisons de croire que la planète d’où venait le petit prince est l’astéroïde B 612.*

je have serious-.f-PL reason-.f-PL of believe-INF CMPL DEF.F planet.F de où come-IMPF-3SG DEF.M little-M prince.M be-3SG DEF.M asteroid.M B 612

‘I have serious reasons to believe that the planet from where the little prince came is the asteroid B 612’

31-cy) *Mae gen i resymau pendant dros gredu mai o’r blaned a elwir yn asteroid B 612 y daeth y tywysog bach.*

mae-PR.SG gen with 1SG DSJTV-reason.M-PL definite-PL for believe-VN CMPL from yrL planet a REL.DIR gain-.PR.SG.IMPERS ADV asteroid.M B 612 REL.INDIR come-PST.3SG yr little-M tywysog bach-DEF

‘I have definite reasons to believe that it is from the planet which is called asteroid B 612 (lit. one gains in asteroid B 612) that the little prince came’

6. Conclusion

The impersonal form in Welsh is hardly used as a translation of the impersonal pronoun *on* ‘one’ in French, at least in this study. In many cases, it is translated with the second person plural subject, or sometimes, with the noun *dyn* ‘man’. When the impersonal pronoun *on* ‘one’ is less generic, it can be translated into Welsh with other constructions, notably with the first person plural subject.

In half of the examples with the impersonal form in Welsh, the verb concerned is a modal verb,
such as *gallu* ‘can’ and *dylu* ‘ought’, of which impersonal form is described in a separate section in the previous research. In this point, the result concerning them can be said to coincide with such a description.

The impersonal form is also said to correspond to the passive construction in other languages, but such a translation can be established in a very few cases. Passives as used in French are more likely to be expressed with the *get*-passive or, in many cases, they correspond to active clauses.

In this paper, Welsh texts are written in the colloquial language, where the impersonal form is not supposed to appear very often. Texts written in literary Welsh should be also researched in the future.

**Abbreviations and Symbols**

**Morphological Processes**

L: lenition (e.g. *merch* /merx/ ‘girl’ > *y ferch* /ə verx/ ‘the girl’)

N: nasalisation (e.g. *calon* /kalon/ ‘heart’ > *fy nghalon* /və əjalon/ ‘my heart’)

H: aspirantisation (e.g. *tad* /tad/ ‘father’ > *ei thad* /ei θad/)

^a_: a-colouring of a stem (e.g. *gwyn* ‘white (M)’ > *gwen* ‘white (F)’)

^i_: i-colouring of a stem (e.g. *gafr* ‘goat’ > *getfr* ‘goats’)

**Grammatical Terms**

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References

Corpora
ウェールズ語の非人称形とその言い換え

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キーワード：ウェールズ語、ケルト諸語、非人称、対照研究

ウェールズ語には他のケルト諸語と同様、動詞の非人称形が存在する。この非人称形は基本的には特定の主語が不特定である場合に用いられるが、時に他言語において受動態で表現されるような環境にも対応する。ただしウェールズ語においては、この非人称形が口語形であると広く用いられない、ということが知られている。

そこで本稿では、フランス語原作小説 Le Petit Prince およびそのウェールズ語訳である Y Tywysog Bach を用いて、フランス語の非人称代名詞 on 'one' による節がどのようにウェールズ語に翻訳されているのかを調査した。

結果、フランス語の非人称代名詞 on 'one' に最も多く対応したウェールズ語の構文は 2 人称複数主語によるものであったが、名詞 dyn 'man' を主語とした用例もある程度得られた。1 人称複数主語として翻訳されたものも見られたが、これはフランス語の非人称代名詞 on 'one' が 1 人称複数を表している場合であると考えられる。

ウェールズ語の非人称形については、テキスト全体で 8 例が得られたのみである。そのうちフランス語の非人称代名詞 on 'one' に対応するものは僅か 3 例であり、それらは全て法助動詞 gallu 'can' によるものであった。