



uOttawa

L'Université canadienne
Canada's university

**FACULTÉ DES ÉTUDES SUPÉRIEURES
ET POSTDOCTORALES**



**FACULTY OF GRADUATE AND
POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES**

Renée Desjardins

AUTEUR DE LA THÈSE / AUTHOR OF THESIS

M.A. (Translation and Interpretation)

GRADE / DEGREE

School of Translation and Interpretation

FACULTÉ, ÉCOLE, DÉPARTEMENT / FACULTY, SCHOOL, DEPARTMENT

Translating the Epidemic of Fear-Based Rhetoric in Canadian Press : A Case Study and Framework

TITRE DE LA THÈSE / TITLE OF THESIS

Salah Basalamah

DIRECTEUR (DIRECTRICE) DE LA THÈSE / THESIS SUPERVISOR

CO-DIRECTEUR (CO-DIRECTRICE) DE LA THÈSE / THESIS CO-SUPERVISOR

EXAMINATEURS (EXAMINATRICES) DE LA THÈSE / THESIS EXAMINERS

Luise Von Flotow

Clara Foz

Gary W. Slater

Le Doyen de la Faculté des études supérieures et postdoctorales / Dean of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

***Translating the Epidemic of Fear-Based Rhetoric in Canadian Press:
A Case Study and Framework***

By

Renée Desjardins

School of Translation and Interpretation
University of Ottawa

Under the direction of

Salah Basalamah, PhD
School of Translation and Interpretation

Thesis submitted to
The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
of the University of Ottawa
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of MA (Translation)

© Renée Desjardins, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 2006.



Library and
Archives Canada

Bibliothèque et
Archives Canada

Published Heritage
Branch

Direction du
Patrimoine de l'édition

395 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0N4
Canada

395, rue Wellington
Ottawa ON K1A 0N4
Canada

Your file Votre référence

ISBN: 978-0-494-25763-0

Our file Notre référence

ISBN: 978-0-494-25763-0

NOTICE:

The author has granted a non-exclusive license allowing Library and Archives Canada to reproduce, publish, archive, preserve, conserve, communicate to the public by telecommunication or on the Internet, loan, distribute and sell theses worldwide, for commercial or non-commercial purposes, in microform, paper, electronic and/or any other formats.

The author retains copyright ownership and moral rights in this thesis. Neither the thesis nor substantial extracts from it may be printed or otherwise reproduced without the author's permission.

AVIS:

L'auteur a accordé une licence non exclusive permettant à la Bibliothèque et Archives Canada de reproduire, publier, archiver, sauvegarder, conserver, transmettre au public par télécommunication ou par l'Internet, prêter, distribuer et vendre des thèses partout dans le monde, à des fins commerciales ou autres, sur support microforme, papier, électronique et/ou autres formats.

L'auteur conserve la propriété du droit d'auteur et des droits moraux qui protègent cette thèse. Ni la thèse ni des extraits substantiels de celle-ci ne doivent être imprimés ou autrement reproduits sans son autorisation.

In compliance with the Canadian Privacy Act some supporting forms may have been removed from this thesis.

Conformément à la loi canadienne sur la protection de la vie privée, quelques formulaires secondaires ont été enlevés de cette thèse.

While these forms may be included in the document page count, their removal does not represent any loss of content from the thesis.

Bien que ces formulaires aient inclus dans la pagination, il n'y aura aucun contenu manquant.


Canada

ABSTRACT

News, as we know, saturates our lives: from the morning newspaper to televised late-night reports there is no denying the influence and impact media can have on our daily lives. In the context of a post September the 11th world, one of the dominant trends in press media is the use of fear-based rhetoric.

This research paper is concerned with how the Canadian press media constructs fear, particularly the fear of disease, and how this fear is further disseminated through translation. As well, it explores some of the dominant discourses concerning translation in the press and in general.

The main hypothesis is that translation acts as a space of contagion with the power to disseminate certain emotions that develop in response to current events.

Observations include a case study of French and English-Canadian press articles on the avian flu and the discursive strategies used to convey fear of the disease, as well as a potential framework for translators of the press.

RÉSUMÉ

Les informations occupent notre vie : depuis le journal du matin jusqu'au bulletin de fin de soirée, il n'y a point de doute au sujet de l'impact que peuvent avoir les médias sur notre quotidien. Dans le contexte mondial d'après le 11 septembre, l'une de tendances dominantes dans la presse consiste à utiliser une rhétorique fondée sur la peur.

Ce mémoire s'interroge sur la manière dont la presse canadienne construit la peur – celle de la maladie en particulier – et comment elle est diffusée à travers la traduction. Il sera aussi question d'exposer certains discours dominants portant sur la traduction dans le domaine de la presse ainsi que de manière générale.

L'hypothèse principale stipule que la traduction agit comme un lieu de contagion dont le pouvoir consiste à disséminer certaines émotions liées à des événements courants.

Ce travail inclut notamment une étude de cas menée sur des articles de la presse canadienne francophone et anglophone sur la grippe aviaire et les stratégies discursives utilisées pour transmettre la peur de la maladie, ainsi qu'un cadre potentiel pour les traducteurs de journaux.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO BE SURROUNDED BY SOME OF THE MOST CARING AND PATIENT PEOPLE, THUS IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

I would like to thank Professor Salah Basalamah for accepting to direct this project. His input led me to push myself and deliver my personal best. Additionally, his patience and understanding, especially in the latter stages of the process, gave me the incentive to persevere.

As well, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Professor Annie Brisset. She has been such an inspiration both academically and as a person. Without her kind words, I am not certain I would have made it this far. I shall always hold dear to my heart all of our discussions.

To my parents, who have given me my wings. I love you both so much. Here's to the dream becoming a reality. As well, thank you to my brother for his comic relief during the most difficult times. My appreciation also goes out to Justin for his love and unwavering support. His patience over the course of this past year and a half is admirable.

To my friends, thank you: Julie, for the many laughs; The Thesis Therapy Group for the support, particularly Marie and Marta who provided not only a shoulder during the difficult times, but smiles and friendship as well; Val, for her sympathetic ears and generous spirit; "The Aerobics Girls", for the workouts and the stress relief; Heidi, for the breakfasts at Cora's. Lastly, it may be unorthodox to thank one's coffee shop, but thank you to the baristas at the Second Cup on Laurier, in particular Jessica, who have always kindly served me my morning java while allowing me to sit hours on end working.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
-------------------	---

♦CHAPTER 1: FEAR, DISEASE, AND HOW THEY CAME TO BE SYNONYMOUS WITH BIRDS: A LOOK INTO WHAT CANADIANS FEAR

1.1 FEAR: A DEFINITION AND INTRODUCTION.....	5
1.2 FEAR: A BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW.....	5
1.3 DISEASE AND FEAR.....	9
1.4 HIV/AIDS.....	9
1.5 ANTHRAX.....	10
1.6 SARS.....	11
1.7 THE PORTRAYAL OF SARS IN THE MEDIA.....	12
1.8 THE AVIAN FLU: THE “NEW” DISEASE TO FEAR.....	15
1.9 WHY THE AVIAN FLU?.....	17
1.10 THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF FEAR OF THE AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA.....	18
1.11 TRANSLATION AS SPACE OF CONTAGION.....	23

♦CHAPTER 2 – THE AVIAN FLU IN THE PRESS: A CRITICAL STUDY OF CONSTRUCTED FEAR AND ITS TRANSLATION

Section 1: Meet the Press.....	24
2.1 THE FOURTH ESTATE.....	24
2.2 SOCIO-CULTURAL CONTEXT.....	30
Section 2: Methodological Overview.....	31
2.3 WHAT IS DISCOURSE AND CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS?.....	32
2.4 CORPORA.....	35
Section 3: Case Study: Avian Flu/ French Corpus from <i>Le Soleil</i>.....	37
2.5 FRENCH-LANGUAGE ANALYSIS.....	37
2.6 UNE SUBJECTIVITÉ OBJECTIVE: <i>LE SOLEIL</i> ’S SEEMINGLY OBJECTIVE COVERAGE OF THE AVIAN FLU.....	37

Section 4: Case Study: Avian Flu/ English Corpus from Canadian Press Newswire	49
2.7 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ANALYSIS.....	49
2.8 EXTRA! EXTRA! FEAR ALL ABOUT IT: THE AVIAN FLU IN CANADIAN PRESS NEWS WIRES.....	49
Section 5: Case Study: Avian Flu/ Translated Corpus (Canadian Press News Wire Articles from English into French)	57
2.9 THE AVIAN FLU IN TRANSLATION.....	58
2.10 TRANSLATING FEAR-BASED RHETORIC – TRANSLATORS BE VIGILANT.....	63
 ♦CHAPTER 3 – THE TRANSLATOR AS <i>RAPPORTEUR</i>, REPORTER AND MEDIATOR: TRANSLATION AND THE MYTH OF OBJECTIVITY; TRANSLATION AS SPACE OF CONTAGION; TRANSLATION VISIBILITY; AND A QUESTION OF ETHICS	
3.1 TRANSLATION AND THE PRESS: SHARING THE MYTH OF OBJECTIVITY.....	69
3.2 FUNCTIONAL APPROACHES IN TRANSLATION: IS THE COMMUNICATIVE GOAL OF TRANSLATION IN THE PRESS A MEANS TO DISSEMINATE FEAR?.....	74
3.3 TRANSLATION AS A SPACE OF CONTAGION.....	81
3.4 THE INVISIBILITY OF THE TRANSLATOR IN THE PRESS.....	84
3.5 A QUESTION OF ETHICS.....	88
 ♦CONCLUSION.....	95
♦BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	98
 ♦APPENDIX 1: FRENCH CORPUS FROM <i>LE SOLEIL</i>	
♦APPENDIX 2: ENGLISH CORPUS FROM <i>CANADIAN PRESS NEWSWIRE</i>	
♦APPENDIX 3: TRANSLATED CORPUS	

INTRODUCTION

News, as we know, saturates our lives: from the morning newspaper to televised late-night reports there is no denying the influence and impact media can have on our daily lives. In the context of a post September the 11th world, one of the dominant trends in press media is the use of fear-based rhetoric. From terror alerts to new diseases, we are incessantly bombarded with a grim portrayal of our surroundings. However, my interest does not only lie in how fear is constructed and disseminated in the press, I am also intrigued in how translation contributes to the fear epidemic. From this starting point, I decided to take a specific occurrence of fear-based rhetoric in the press, the contagious epidemic, and explore its news coverage and translation in a Canadian context. In the past two years, there has been significant coverage on the avian flu virus (also known as the H5N1 virus) leading us to believe that this particular strain of influenza may have the potential to kill millions of individuals worldwide. But instead of merely informing us, the Canadian press, more specifically Canadian Press Newswire, and the Québec dailies (*Le Soleil*, *Le Devoir*, *Le Droit*) – the press outlets used for my case study – have gone above their informational calling and created a worst-case scenario with the potential to evoke unnecessary fear in the masses. Because Canadian Press NewsWire relies on translation to exchange information nationwide, I was provided with an opportunity to look not only at how translation occurs in general in Canadian press media, but how translation can contribute to the dissemination of ideas and more specifically emotions, notably fear.

Though it is true that there has been academic work done on translation in the press and how it can construct realities, from my research thus far, very little has been done on translation's potential to disseminate emotions. I took it upon myself, in the context of this M.A. project, to begin investigating translation in this light.

My initial goal was to solely look at the discursive strategies used to construct fear in English and then in French, and subsequently to look at what happens to them through the process of translation. My original hypothesis was that the discursive strategies would be different, and thus it would have been interesting to see whether or not translation catered to those differences. However, after analyzing my data, I realized that apart from a few exceptions French-Canadian press and English-Canadian press have very similar reporting and framing strategies. From this discovery, I altered my project and starting hypotheses.

In sum, this thesis will look at three key points: how a societal institution, i.e. the Canadian press media, constructs fear, particularly the fear of disease; how this constructed fear is further disseminated through the process of translation; and lastly, a look at the general discourses shared by the press and by translation. The overall hypothesis is that translation has the potential not only to disseminate ideologies and certain discourses, but also the power to propagate emotions, notably fear.

Chapter 1, “Fear, Disease, and How They Became Synonymous with Birds – A Look into What Canadians Fear” considers fear from a historical perspective, its association with disease and how certain institutions have contributed to this association. Chapter 1 also takes a look at some of the ways previous epidemics have been reported, for example AIDS, Anthrax and SARS. These previous instances of “disease in the press” provide the socio-political and cultural backdrop used to construct the current portrayal of the H5N1 virus. I chose to look at the avian flu because it has all the elements of fear in play: the fear of death, the fear of the unknown and the fear of pain. At the end of the chapter, I propose a metaphorical comparison between the contagious epidemic and translation as a space of contagious interaction: translation, like the media, disseminates information to additional audiences in different temporal and cultural spaces.

Chapter 2 is a case study of the discursive strategies used to construct fear of the avian flu. Essentially, it is an illustration supporting my argument that the press does indeed frame its presumed audience's perceptions of current events. The first section of the chapter establishes how Canadian press in general works in constructing our perception of reality: the concepts of audience trust and credibility, the discourse of objectivity, the six points of selection, etc. Additionally, before proceeding to the case study itself, I expose the methodological framework I have chosen to use to conduct my analysis: critical discourse analysis (CDA). This framework is then applied to three corpora of Canadian press articles and news wires in both English and French, including a corpus of translated texts in order to demonstrate how fear of the avian flu is constructed. The final section of Chapter 2 seeks to look at translation beyond how it occurs in the avian case study – essentially the role it can play in the press.

Chapter 3 considers the dominant discourses of objectivity that both the press and translation share. By demystifying these discourses, translators may be liberated from their prescriptive shackles while finally ridding the translation profession from notions of “fidelity”, “transparency”, “translators as automatons”. Chapter 3 also expands on the concept of translation as contagious space. Translation allows for the proliferation of ideas and emotions, and as such, it is a powerful means of communication. With power should also come visibility and accountability; these topics will be the central focus in the sections titled “The Invisibility of the Translator in the Press” and “A Question of Ethics”.

In recent scholarship, there has been a definite trend towards projects of an interdisciplinary nature. I believe my thesis fits into this paradigm as it merges the fields of media studies, cultural studies, communications and translation into one project, but does not establish a hierarchy between them. By positioning translation alongside these more

predominant fields, I hope to finally elevate translation to its due position alongside other disciplines of the humanities. The contribution I hope to make in this project is to give translators of the press a theoretical groundwork that would support the discourse analysis of the articles they translate, allowing for critical assessment of information and the unveiling of deeper levels of textual meaning; to illustrate the power translation has in the dissemination of certain world-views, ideologies and emotions, specifically fear; and finally, to dismantle some of the dominant discourses that subordinate translation in the press and in general, allowing for the translator to become at once visible and accountable.

CHAPTER 1 – FEAR, DISEASE AND HOW THEY BECAME SYNONYMOUS WITH BIRDS: A LOOK INTO WHAT CANADIANS FEAR

1.1 Fear: A Definition and Introduction

The Canadian Oxford defines fear as “an unpleasant emotion caused by exposure to danger, expectation of pain, etc.” and “anxiety for the safety of”. In *Fear Itself*, Dozier Jr. describes fear as: “the body’s way of anticipating and avoiding pain and the danger’s pain signals: injury and death (1998:4)” and as “our most primal emotion (1998:5)”. We all have personal fears, and these fears will often regulate to a certain degree how we carry out our daily activities. For instance, most people will not purposefully expose themselves to situations that they fear.

However, what we may not initially realize is the extent to which our fears are influenced and produced by the societal institutions in which we place our trust. My research project is concerned with how a societal institution, the press media, constructs fear, particularly the fear of disease, how this fear is further disseminated through translation, as well as some translation issues in the press. The following chapter will consider fear from a historical perspective; how fear came to be synonymous with disease and how certain societal institutions have influenced the discourse of fear.

1.2 Fear: A Brief Historical Overview

Fear is part of humankind’s psychological makeup (Siegel, 2005:13) and has manifested itself in different variations throughout the course of history. Essentially, as the aforementioned definition suggests, it is a physical reaction to a perceived threat (Siegel, 2005:14). When our bodies are confronted with something we fear our brains engage in neurochemical exchanges that translate into physical reactions such as the speeding of our hearts and quicker nerve response (Siegel, 2005:14). From this perspective, fear is

something tangible; that is: fear is *felt* (Bourke, 2005:8). However, fear cannot be explained solely on biological and physiological grounds, it can also be explained from a sociological standpoint. That is to say, societal agents can play a role in how we react to certain “perceived threats” and why we fear them.

By studying what people fear and why they fear, we may better understand how societies work as well as how they are structured. The establishment of certain institutions may be explained by a societal impulse to suppress fear; for example, the police force and the military exist to protect us against crime and attack. In addition to concerns for our physical and material well-being, fears reveal our worries about the unknown—we fear the “Other” because it is outside our experience. But before discussing the role of institutions in the dissemination of fear, we should begin by looking at the shapes fear has taken through history.

At different moments in history, humankind has feared different things but what seems to link seemingly disparate fears is the notion of the unknown. In most of the Western World, fear of the unknown has notably manifested itself in the form of the fear of death (Altheide, 2002, Bourke, 2005, Dozier Jr., 1998, Siegel 2005). As Dozier Jr. states: “The greatest unknown is death [...] fear of death becomes in most people the primary fear (1998:129).” To counter this fear, we have tried rationalizing our existence in a variety of ways, notably through that of religious experience. “Religion gives us a sense of control over the fear of death and the unknown (Dozier, 1998:129).” Though religion may seem to alleviate part of the population’s fear of death, it has paradoxically contributed to discourse of fear. For instance, if one takes a look particularly at European religious art produced between the Middle Ages and the beginning of the 19th century,

some of it contained rather gruesome images of the afterlife reserved for sinners, while other pieces depicted scary images of Satan¹ (Stokstad, 2002).

After the Enlightenment, as Western society moved towards secularism, the fear of death was still omnipresent, despite the fact that secularization had sought to reduce the terrors associated with the judgement of the soul in the afterlife (Bourke, 2005: 28). As stated in *Fear: A Cultural History*: “[death] was a democratic fear: rich and poor alike trembled in the face of that eternal unknown (2005:28)”. Medicine, science and anatomy were now coming to the fore which brought a new spin to the age-old fear of death. In the later 1800s, medical schools sought to obtain corpses to teach anatomy to physicians and surgeons. Those who could not afford proper burials were terrified of winding up on a dissection table, while rich families took every preventative measure to avoid this fate (Bourke, 2005: 29). Interestingly, this may be one of the first occasions the press took to disseminate fear in the general population. Bourke cites a headline from a paper dating from 1888: “Horrors of the Dissecting Room (29).” This headline shows that the press was actively participating in disseminating fear, particularly the fear of dying poor and the threat of being cut apart on a dissection table. It is at this point in history where we may be able to pinpoint the advent of two key institutions that play a large role in the contemporary dissemination of fear: medicine (in the larger sense of the term) and the press.

¹ A few pieces could be referenced here, for instance Schongauer’s *Temptation of Saint Anthony* (c.1480-1490), in which a variety of gruesome demons are depicted poking and scratching at the Saint. There is also Dürer’s *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* (1497-1498) based on the book of Revelation: each horse represents a fear: Conquest, War, Plague and Famine, and finally, Death. A third piece, Bosch’s *Garden of Earthly Delights* (1505-1515) is a triptych depicting Adam and Eve on the first panel, humans engaging in a variety of condemnable acts in the central panel, and on the third, a depiction of hell which is reserved for those who do not choose the righteous path. This third panel depicting hell is cluttered with images of monstrous looking creatures while humans are being tortured in a variety of ways. (Stokstad, 2002: 649, 717, 745).

In 1963, French philosopher Michel Foucault published his book *Birth of the Clinic*, which studied the evolution of medical discourse in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Foucault demonstrates that medical practice is a system of knowledge that is circulated through a specific discourse that acquired its authority through its perceived objectivity. Foucault essentially showed how medicine in the 18th century became a discourse of power: because people were scared of death (as well as disease, which will be discussed further on), they turned to those who had medical knowledge: doctors. In Foucault's essay *The Politics of Health in the Eighteenth Century* (Foucault, ed. Colin Gordon, 1980) he states:

“medicine [...] assumes an increasingly important place in the administrative system and the machinery of power, a role which is constantly widened and strengthened throughout the eighteenth century [...] The doctor becomes the great advisor and expert, if not in the art of governing, at least in that of observing, correcting and improving the social ‘body’ and maintaining it in a permanent state of health (176-177).”

Thus, people no longer turn to the Church to seek medical counselling, but to doctors. Medicine becomes a discourse that alleviates a certain level of fear of death and disease because it appears to be grounded in science and objectivity. *Birth of the Clinic* also reveals that the medical profession was not merely a “mechanical process” but a constructed language that evolved over time – the same can also be said of the language that the media utilizes to describe current events; we can see that it evolves and changes in relation to other social practices and institutions. The notion of “constructed” language will be considered later on in Chapter 2, in relation to critical discourse analysis.

1.3 Disease and Fear

Disease throughout history has also been intimately linked with fear (Dozier Jr., 1998: 130, Siegel, 2005: 107-161), as it is often disease that leads to death. Throughout history, one particular brand of “disease” has instigated more fear than others: the contagious epidemic. From the Black Death (bubonic plague of the 14th century) to the devastating Spanish Influenza of the early 20th century, people feared contagion. It is only in a more recent history (1950s onwards) that other non-contagious diseases, such as cancer, have begun to take center stage (Bourke, 2005: 298). Nonetheless, epidemics still seem to muster some fear in contemporary society as events such as the reporting of AIDS in the 1980s proved; as stated in *Culture of Fear*: “In the decade since the AIDS panic first swept the Western world there has been a series of dramatic encounters with infectious disease (1997:22)”. And once again, like in centuries past, the institutions of medicine and press media play on their authoritative discourse to calm the masses – or are they really calming the masses?

1.4 HIV/AIDS

In the 1980s, HIV/AIDS became the spotlighted “epidemic” in the news. Unfortunately, much of the information provided about HIV/AIDS was so biased that fear was incited not only by the disease itself, but also the “Other”, the person infected. In many developed countries, people infected with HIV were stigmatized and feared, worse, infection was much more widespread in certain communities, resulting in acute generalizations toward people who were drug users, homosexual, or of African heritage. People belonging to these groups represented the stereotypes most associated with the disease. Thus, the average North American Caucasian feared not only HIV/AIDS but also

members of stereotyped communities, because the media portrayed a direct link between them².

The media portrayal of the HIV/AIDS epidemic could have served as a warning: generalizations and stereotypes breed fear and misunderstanding. For example, in an article reported by the *New York Times* in July of 1981, Dr. Curran, of the Centers for Disease Control, was quoted as saying: *"there was no apparent danger to non homosexuals from contagion. The best evidence against contagion is that no cases have been reported to date outside the homosexual community or in women"*³. Such statements initially led people to believe that HIV/AIDS only affected certain communities, though this was disproved a few months later. A few years after HIV/AIDS, "new" diseases surfaced, and the media seized on these "threats" as opportunities to sow seeds of fear in the populace.

1.5 Anthrax

In the wake of the unfortunate events of 9/11, North Americans were confronted with a new infectious disease—anthrax. As part of the "Anthrax Attacks" of 2001, anthrax spores were delivered via letter post to two U.S. senators and a prominent American reporter. Suddenly, legions of citizens were wary of opening their mail for fear of being infected by anthrax. As with HIV/AIDS, the media wasted no time in spreading the bad news: headlines such as "Bioterrorism more of a threat than missiles"⁴, "Anthrax fear

²Stigma and HIV/AIDS: A review of the literature, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration HIV/AIDS Bureau
<http://hab.hrsa.gov/publications/stigma/introduction.htm>. 4 June 2006.

³ AVERT.org. The history of AIDS 1981-1986. http://www.avert.org/his81_86.htm. 13 June 2006

⁴ ENSOR, David. "Biden: Bioterrorism more of a threat than missiles." 5 Sept. 2001. CNN. 4 June 2006.
<http://archives.cnn.com/2001/ALLPOLITICS/09/05/bioterror.threats/index.html>

spreads beyond mail ⁵”, “Masks can't stop anthrax: Store-bought masks are useless in the fight against the deadly virus ⁶”, popped up on websites, newspapers and television news broadcasts. News-conscious citizens could now potentially view anthrax “as a deadly virus more powerful than missiles”- and yet the number of anthrax-related deaths paled in comparison to the number of AIDS casualties. As Siegel explains in *False Alarm*: “the anthrax scare established a precedent for public health hysteria [...] to the point where the public [now] feels threatened by every possible source of contagion (2005:6)”.

1.6 SARS

For a few years, the position of *bug du jour* went unfilled; however, the world of the early 21st century is nonetheless plagued by an oppressive atmosphere of constant, potential threats, including terrorism, war and bioterrorism. In fact, it is nearly impossible to watch any televised news program or read any newspaper without encountering a mention of these threats. Though one might have thought readers and viewers would be immune to—if not completely disinterested in—the fear-based rhetoric of the media, the advent of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in 2003 proved otherwise.

The SARS outbreak was reported similarly to the AIDS epidemic: the media urged people to fear not only the disease itself, but also the stereotypes presumed to be associated

⁵ "Anthrax fear spreads beyond mail: Investigators stumped by case of N.Y. woman :[Final Edition]. " Star - Phoenix [Saskatoon, Sask.] 31 Oct. 2001,C14. Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario 4 Jun 2006 <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

⁶ WES ALLISON, Scripps Howard News Service "Masks can't stop anthrax: Store-bought masks are useless in the fight against the deadly virus :[DAILY Edition]. " Daily News [Halifax, N.S.] 29 Oct. 2001,19. Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario. 4 Jun 2006 <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

with the disease. Groups linked to the disease and presented as stereotypical carriers included people of Asian heritage, travelers, and anyone who had been in contact with people from the first two groups. In the context of this project, it is particularly important to note that the SARS outbreak, unlike the Anthrax Attacks, happened on Canadian soil, specifically in the city of Toronto. For Canadians born in the mid-twentieth century and later, this was perhaps the first instance of “homegrown fear”. Like the anthrax-fearing Americans, Canadians began to fear SARS.

SARS first appeared in Asia, but quickly made its way to other continents. In early February 2003, a group of people from Hong Kong—unknowingly infected with the disease—flew to Singapore and Toronto, thereby introducing SARS to other areas of Asia and to Canada. Almost immediately after it surfaced in Canada (April 2003), SARS became a permanent fixture in media.

1.7 The Portrayal of SARS in the Media

Once again, the media presented the Canadian public with worst-case scenarios and suggestions to avoid contagion. For example, some 2003 headlines read: “More SARS outbreaks inevitable⁷”, “SARS found in 3 Ontario kids⁸” and “SARS toll climbs⁹”. Since the threat was local, Canadians personalized the impact of SARS to a much higher degree than with previously feared diseases. Furthermore, we must recall that newspaper

⁷ DERFEL, Aaron. “More SARS outbreaks inevitable, MD warns: :[Final Edition].” The Ottawa Citizen [Ottawa, Ont.] 14 Nov. 2003,A5. Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies. ProQuest. ***University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario 13 Jun 2006 <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

⁸ “SARS found in three Ontario kids :[DAILY Edition 1].” Daily News [Halifax, N.S.] 1 Apr. 2003,14. Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario. 13 Jun 2006 <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

⁹ “SARS toll climbs :[Final Edition].” Calgary Herald [Calgary, Alta.] 31 Mar. 2003,A1 / FRONT. Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Onatio. 13 Jun 2006 <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

journalists want readers to identify with the content of their articles (Russell, 2006) and, by highlighting the fact that SARS was happening *here*, in *Toronto, Canada*, writers were better able to capture Canadian readers' attention. How could readers not respond to a threat that was so close to home?

One incident that fuelled the media frenzy was the World Health Organization's (WHO's) travel advisory warning people not to visit Toronto (Siegel:145). Canadians were now the ones being stigmatized, on the global stage, no less. The travel advisory in particular made Canada and Canadians something to be feared. Economically, SARS also posed a problem: with less travel to Canada during the summer months, local companies were losing business. Fear of SARS put a dent in Canada's pocketbook; tourists stayed at home and entrepreneurs had more than disease to be afraid of; with significantly lower revenues, the threat of bankruptcy was also very real.

In *Morals and the Media: Ethics in Canadian Journalism*, Russell openly addresses the media's use of sensationalist rhetoric in the case of SARS:

"Some sensationalism unquestionably plays to people's fear of the unknown. The spring of 2003 saw a number of disasters in Canada, including a SARS epidemic. Or was it? The initial headlines were huge and horrifying [...] The page 1 coverage of [SARS] was coast to coast, but the outbreak was in Ontario. Then it hit British-Columbia, with equally big headlines. Days later, it became clear that the BC "outbreak" was an unrelated respiratory infection in one nursing home, and no cause for alarm: That "good news" got two or three column-inches in many papers. Ultimately, eight hundred people died from SARS, *worldwide*, compared to hundreds of thousands of deaths every year from typhoid, malaria, measles, and other disease (2006:26)."

The main problem with the media coverage of SARS was that stories were often based merely on pessimistic, lopsided speculation. Initially, experts believed that SARS was actually the result of bio-terrorism, and international and national health associations, such as the WHO, the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Center for Disease Control were quick to discuss their predictions of an epidemic with the press (Siegel, 2005: 142-152). Unfortunately, many organization representatives openly discussed worst-case scenarios at press conferences without first considering how the public would interpret and react to this information. Medical professionals are equipped to understand medical terminology; the average newspaper reader—or perhaps even reporter, unless he or she is specialized in health issues—is not. Thus, words like “outbreak”, “epidemic”, “deadly virus” will most likely inspire a reaction of fear, as opposed to a calm, practical response. It could even be posited that some of the information provided by these organizations was altogether willingly misconstrued or misinterpreted by the press and then re-mediated to the public as “truth”.

In retrospect, SARS did not turn out to be the “worst-case” scenario the press predicted it would be. As of September 2003, 43 people had died of SARS in Canada¹⁰, which, in comparison to other diseases, is not very significant. In fact, in late 2003 it seemed as though SARS had largely disappeared from Canadians’ collective consciousness...that is, until the reappearance of the avian flu in 2004.

The media’s reporting on SARS produced new ways of constructing and mass-distributing fear. In previous decades, coverage of international health issues was rather limited, mostly due to technological constraints. In the 1980s, the discussion of AIDS was

¹⁰Canadian SARS Numbers. Public Health Agency of Canada. 3 Sept 2003
http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/sars-sras/cn-cc/20030903_e.html 4 June 2006.

restricted mainly to newspapers and television news programs. Those seeking immediate updates on death tolls or the newest cures were out of luck; they would have to wait until the next day when the news was made available via the paper, the television or the radio. In recent years, the media has taken on new forms: the Internet provides countless sources of news, including RSS¹¹ feeds, instantaneous news bullets, news websites, blogs, e-mail and news databases. Cable television features 'round the clock newscasts, live commentary and informational programming. All this to say that news is much more readily available than it was a few decades ago. Furthermore, it is also important to note that people can now *choose* their news; before, one had few options—the national and local news. In today's world however, one can choose to consult news from abroad, either via the Internet or through specialized multinational cable networks. However, the proliferation of accessible media outlets has created a news-saturated society; news is everywhere. Thus, in order to distinguish themselves, newspapers, news stations and websites use sensationalist, fear-based rhetoric to provoke audiences and grab their attention. Recognizing that fear is a universal emotion, and that the threat of disease causes fear, the media plays on the *pathos* of its audience, capitalizing on the threat of diseases such as AIDS, SARS and anthrax to increase readership, and subsequently profits (Russell, 2006). As noted earlier, when SARS came into the picture in 2003, the Canadian press was quick to highlight the fact that the threat was close to home, which spoke directly to Canadians' sense of *pathos*: the threat of disease was at *our* doorstep.

1.8 The Avian Flu: the “New” Disease to Fear

Having examined the media's treatment of SARS, we must now consider the case of the avian flu. The avian flu made its first appearance on the world map in the 19th

¹¹ Really Simple Syndication

century, consequently, it is not a “new” disease *per se*. Over the past century, the now-called “Avian flu” has appeared in various mutations, notably the Spanish Influenza (1918-1920), the Asian Flu (1957-1958), and the Hong Kong Flu (1968-1969). Thus, though the media may present the avian flu as a “new” epidemic threat, it has been around for quite some time. The current avian flu strain, known as H5N1, is considered to be the “newest” epidemic by the media. With the memory of SARS still fresh in Canadian minds, the grounds for the media to capitalize on this current threat are quite fertile. As one Canadian critic notes:

“[...] the virus has all the makings of a media blockbuster. It’s strange and new and it can mutate quickly into unpredictable, ever-more-threatening forms. Thanks to migratory birds and global travellers, it has the potential to blanket the world quickly. Worst of all, there is no known vaccine for the virus, which accompanies a horrifying list of symptoms including a high fever, serious respiratory complications, extreme body aches, multiple organ failure and often death in 72 hours or less¹²”.

And so, as with the other big name diseases preceding it, the avian flu has all the elements in play: the fear of death, the fear of the unknown, the fear of pain, – but we must remember that this triptych of fear has been composed by the media; the media compels us to focus on the worst-case scenario. Once again, the media are willfully sending viewers and readers into a tailspin of paranoia and anxiety. Canadian geese used to represent the coming and going of seasons – now these migratory birds are something to be feared at all

¹² GEORGE, Lianne. “Forget SARS, West Nile, Ebola and the avian flu. The real epidemic is fear.” *Macleans* 29 Sept 2005. 10 Dec 2005.
http://www.macleans.ca/topstories/health/article.jsp?content=20051003_113117_113117

costs, potential carriers of the dreaded H5N1. Travel used to be considered pleasurable – now with terrorism, and a series of new air-borne “epidemics”, people are starting to fear travelling. But in this “atmosfear”, people are beginning to become doubtful and desensitized. We’re not sure what to believe anymore. SARS was supposed to be The Epidemic, The Big One. Somehow, it turned into a blip on the WHO radar. Now, everyday we are reminded and warned that the avian flu is in fact The One. The Big One. To quote WHO, “it’s not a matter of ‘if’, it is only a matter of ‘when’”...

1.9 Why The Avian Flu?

Thus far, I have not explained why I chose to look at press articles and translated press articles relating specifically to the avian flu. In 2003, when SARS was the most recent medical hot topic discussed in the press, I remember being absolutely terrified of catching the disease; I remember fearing travelling to Toronto and even contemplated buying surgical masks to avoid “breathing” contaminated air.

Three years have now passed and SARS did not turn out to be The Epidemic we were promised by the medical and press communities. However, at the time, the press media and the medical community managed to convince myself as well as the general population that we had every reason to be scared. And scared we were...

Now, faced with a new potential epidemic threat, the avian flu, I find myself approaching the fear-based rhetoric of the press much more critically. I would like to investigate how fear of the avian flu is constructed through discourse. Furthermore, I am interested in seeing whether the discursive strategies are similar for the two official linguistic communities of Canada and the role translation plays in the propagation of fear-based rhetoric. My interest does not necessarily lie in air-borne epidemics; the avian flu is

simply the most recent medical threat discussed internationally in the news, making it a current event worthy of critical analysis.

Furthermore, there is the notion of power – how is it that the press and the medical community have such a stronghold on our emotions? Why do we accord them such power? Lastly, in the context of translation studies, what role does the translation of these articles play in furthering this power-relation?

1.10 The Epidemiology of Fear of the Avian Flu in the Media

In the previous sections I have attempted to demonstrate how disease has been feared throughout history and, consequently, how disease factors into the history of fear. I have also sought to provide a chronological account of some recently feared diseases reported in the media, with the H5N1 avian flu strain being the most recent. However, we have not yet explored the matter of how the media constructs and mass-distributes the concept of disease as something to be feared and how, in turn, the public largely accepts this construction as “truth” and “consensual public belief”.

Dan Sperber, anthropologist and author of *La Contagion des idées* (1996) proposes an interesting theory of how ideas are disseminated into the collective consciousness and how they acquire a value of “truth” depending on the level of authority of the institution or person relaying the information to the masses. The media is an institution of contemporary society: a social structure that can influence the behaviour of members within a culture or community. Because we see the media as a social institution, we attribute it a certain level of authority; as representatives of this institution, journalists are the gatekeepers of information. They have access to the “facts,” we may not. Journalists can witness current events in person, we, as readers or viewers may not. Essentially, we assume that journalists are the authorities when it comes to current events because *they* do the research, *they*

witness news-in-the-making and write the articles while we, on the other hand, do not¹³. Thus, when we read about the threat of avian flu in the Canadian press, we are inclined to believe that this threat is legitimate, though we may not have experienced it first hand or even fully understand all the medical, epidemiological, or pathological jargon in which the article may have been written. To follow the model proposed by Sperber: some of our beliefs are reflexive, meaning that we only understand the belief in relation to other intuitive beliefs that were learned and understood *a priori*. Generally, these reflexive beliefs “make sense rationally because their source is deemed credible and authoritative on the matter” (Sperber:1996). Using an example to further illustrate: when one reads that the avian flu is “highly pathogenic”, a varying degree of interpretations are possible. For the reader who is not acquainted with medical terminology, “pathogenic” represents an unknown, an “Other.” As we have discussed previously, confrontation with “Otherness” often inspires fear. Furthermore, writers’ use of medical terminology carries with it the authority of scientific discourse – as Sperber notes: “les profanes acceptent les croyances scientifiques par confiance à l’autorité dont elles émanent (126)”. Thus, by using medical terminology in general interest press articles, writers exert a “double-authority”, supported by the institutional weight of the media and the scientific or medical community cited in the article. The tendency of journalists to cite experts from various health organizations may be viewed as an attempt to leverage some of the authority associated with their status. Foucault touches on the subject of authoritative discourse in his essay titled *Truth and Power* (Foucault, ed. Colin Gordon, 1980); he states:

¹³ Jean-Noël Kapferer argues that the public places a quasi-automatic trust in certain media institutions: “En premier lieu, il convient que le public conserve une totale confiance dans les *médias officiels* (presse, radio, télévision) de façon à ce qu’il ne soit pas tenté d’aller s’informer ailleurs (1990:14)”.

“Each society has its régime of truth, its ‘general politics’ of truth: that is, the types of discourse which it accepts and makes function as true; the mechanisms and instances which enable one to distinguish true and false statements, the means by which each is sanctioned; the techniques and procedures accorded value in the acquisition of truth; the status of those who are charged with saying what counts as true (131).”

In our current society, health organizations and the press are associated with a certain status that allows their discourse to count as “truthful” – they have the power and legitimacy. Consequently, when a press article juxtaposes its authority with that of the medical community, people are more likely to assign a value of “truth” to that discourse.

Furthermore, just as Sperber suggests that ideas and beliefs can spread like epidemics, I contend that fear can also spread like an epidemic and that the media is at the epicentre of contagion. I believe this point can be argued on the basis of three key facts. First, as I have just discussed, the media has a certain authority within the collective consciousness and plays a significant role in how we perceive reality. Thus, if the media distributes a story suggesting that the avian flu should be feared, the public’s general reaction will be to trust the media’s authority on the matter, which also supposes “trust” in the media’s judgment that the threat of the avian flu is real. Second, because of the omnipresence of the media, news is a common interest of the general populace. The workplace and communal areas function as areas of contagion: evidently, illnesses can make their way around the office, but this is true of ideas and fear as well. Many daily conversations are sparked by someone citing a newspaper article or news broadcast, generating discussion between coworkers, family and friends. One person reads an article then discusses it with two co-workers who then go on to discuss it with their families and

so forth. Before the day has ended, a network is now aware of the current event though each individual of that network may have not read the text for themselves. The media relies on word of mouth to further distribute news – it increases notoriety, which in turn generally leads to market profitability. But let us return to the matter at hand, the site of contagion. When one individual places faith in a press article and begins to fear, he or she is more likely to pass on this information to associates out of concern; furthermore, his or her delivery of information may be characterized by fear and may intensify the threat in the mind of the listener. Thus, the media-ted “truth” is consumed by readers who then re-mediate the text through their own account of the news story, potentially intensifying the fear associated with the threat being reported on. Thirdly, and this will be discussed in much more depth in Chapter 2, the media, particularly the printed press, is a finely tuned discursive mechanism. By this I mean that news organisations tend to be keenly aware of their readership—be it through surveys, customer responses, sales, etc.—and journalists are taught and expected to use certain rhetorical strategies to further cement the media’s authority. Writers are encouraged to use recognizable and authoritative sources—such as community doctors, internationally recognized celebrities, prominent political figures, etc.—as well as citations and technical terminology.

That said, questioning and criticizing the press has become a more prominent concern for our society. Consider for instance the proliferation of blogs¹⁴ and communication courses devoted to media literacy. As stated in *Morals and the Media: Ethics in Canadian Journalism*, “On the web, where everyone who says he’s a writer is a

¹⁴ From “weblog”; meaning an online publication focusing on a particular subject. In recent years, blogs have become increasingly personalized and common (some individuals use them as public online diaries, whilst others act as online forums for discussion on the particular topic in question). Some blogs are highly critical of the mass media, though they tend to disseminate information in a very similar fashion.

writer, where there are no deadlines and no length restrictions, where, in fact, anarchy largely prevails, the blogger can hold the feet of traditional journalists to the fire, demanding accountability, accuracy, and balance as never before (2006: xiv)". However, such initiatives may not be sufficient to shake our faith in the institutions whose word we have taken as "truth" *a priori*. Because of the difficulty inherent in discourse analysis and media criticism, many individuals content themselves with being a part of the collective consciousness and avoid being overtly critical. In the 1960s, philosopher and sociologist Hebert Marcuse (1898-1979) commented on society's lack of intervention. He suggested that "the bulk of the population can see no reason to rebel against a system which appears to meet their material needs adequately and provide a reasonable "democratic" sense of personal security¹⁵". Prominent French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu (1930-2002), also warns of some of the intricacies involved with media literacy:

"Alors que plus on avance dans l'analyse d'un mécanisme, d'un milieu, d'un fonctionnement social, plus on est amené à dédouaner les agents de leurs responsabilités. Ce qui ne veut pas dire qu'on justifie tout ce qui se passe dans un univers social, mais plus on comprend comment il fonctionne, plus on comprend aussi que les gens qui le font fonctionner sont manipulateurs et manipulés¹⁶".

What critical analysis reveals is manipulation at many levels, and this reality may not be something most people want to confront. Bourdieu also suggests that the media probably does not want to be put under the critical microscope because it would undermine its authority: "Ces interventions extérieures sont très menaçantes, premièrement parce

¹⁵ SIM, Stuart and Borin VAN LOON. (2001) *Introducing Critical Theory*. Toronto: Penguin Books.

¹⁶ *Les Médias en actes: Pierre Bourdieu & les medias: Rencontres INA/Sorbonne 15 mars 2003* (2003), Paris: L'Harmattan.

qu'elles peuvent tromper les profanes, qui malgré tout ont du poids dans la mesure où les producteurs culturels [i.e. the media] ont besoin de clients¹⁷”.

But the commercial viability of the media should not dissuade us from trying to relieve the psychological burden associated with the unnecessary fear imposed by fear-based rhetoric. It is imperative that we question and examine the social institutions that play such a crucial role in the construction of our everyday realities.

1.11 Translation as space of Contagion

To further develop some of the concepts put forth by Sperber, I suggest that translation acts as another space of contagion in the epidemic of fear-based rhetoric. Translation, like the media, disseminates information to audiences that may not have had access to such information in the source language. The following chapters will not only expand on some of the discursive strategies used to construct fear in the media, but also examine how fear is translated and further distributed to audiences for which the articles may or may not have been intended. Does translation disseminate fear? Does it undermine the authority of the media? Is it ethical to translate fear? Is it not? The following case study and its results will aim to shed some light on these important issues.

¹⁷ *Les Médias en actes: Pierre Bourdieu & les medias: Rencontres INA/Sorbonne 15 mars 2003* (2003), Paris: L'Harmattan.

CHAPTER 2 – The Avian Flu in the Press: A critical study of constructed fear and its translation

Section 1: Meet the Press

The previous chapter sought to highlight the correlation between disease and fear, as well as provide a recent chronology of diseases featured in the news. Section 1 of this chapter will now address the question of *how* the press works in constructing our perception of reality – in short, a sociology of the Canadian press.

2.1 The Fourth Estate

The news media is often referred to as the “Fourth Estate” though many are unfamiliar with the origins of this term. In the late 18th century and earlier 19th century, British journalists were forbidden to report parliamentary proceedings, thus limiting the public’s access to government affairs (Lorimer and Gasher, 2001: 237). Evidently this caused uproar and many journalists defied the prohibition. In 1803, journalists were finally legally granted the right to report in Parliament and a gallery was built solely for the press – it was called “the fourth estate” (Lorimer and Gasher, 2001: 237). The idea of journalism being the “fourth estate”, a sort of *watchdog*, over the on-goings of governments, businesses and events in general, asserts a value of authority to the press. The public trusts that one of the fundamental roles of the press is to report what is often not readily available for it to witness directly¹⁸. Public trust is an absolute necessity in order for the press to maintain its legitimacy and authority over other information outlets (such as personalized blogs for instance). This relationship also rests on the notion of credibility; as stated in *Morals and the Media: Ethics in Canadian Journalism*: “the word credibility means, literally, believability, it translates as trust – the audience’s confidence in the media that they read, watch and listen to (2006: 20).”

¹⁸ The press is also one of the main components of a functional democratic society.

Journalism is often associated with the quest for truth and an obligation to report events objectively (Lorimer and Gasher 2001: 237, Esquenazi 2002: 19), however, this is only an *idealized* version of journalism; noted in *Morals and the Media: Ethics in Canadian Journalism*: “truth is a slippery creature, never wholly attainable (2006:37).” If one begins to critically deconstruct the intricate mechanisms that work together to create news, it is possible to realize that the press frames much of our realities, and because this “framing” is ubiquitous in journalism, we as readers seldom recognize its existence¹⁹; *L’Écriture de l’actualité* explains: “Pour chacun d’entre nous, il est extrêmement difficile de reconnaître la nature construite des cadres que nous utilisons sans cesse. Ils sont comme notre seconde peau, organisant spontanément notre vie (Esquenazi, 2002:35)”. To this we could add: “News reports, while based on actual events and real people, never simply “mirror” reality, as some journalists would contend (Lorimer and Gasher, 2001:234).” If news stories were like mirrored reflections, then all stories in all newspapers of the world would virtually be identical, and we know, this is certainly not the case. First and foremost, what is considered as newsworthy in one area of the world may not be in another. Also, what may be acceptable to report in one country may not be in another. The list of differences is endless. Furthermore, there is a process of *selection* involved in news making (Lorimer and Gasher, 2001: 234). From a multitude of events that happen in the world at any given point in time,

¹⁹ The concept of “frame” comes from the work of Erving Goffman, notably his 1975 book titled: *Frame Analysis: An Essay on the Organization of Experience*. Essentially, Goffman suggested that the concept of **frame** could be defined by “definitions of a situation [that] are built up in accordance with principles of organization which govern events – at least social ones – and our subjective involvement in them (1975: 11).” Thus, social frameworks, like the press and the news stories they produce, “provide background understanding for events that incorporate the will, aim, and controlling effort of an intelligence, a live agency, the chief one being the human being (1975:22).” Esquenazi expands on Goffman: “Appelons, avec le sociologue américain, *cadre* un style caractéristique d’expérience, socialement organisé, qui nous permet à la fois de reconnaître l’activité d’autrui et de façonner la nôtre. Les cadres remplissent notre vie en l’ordonnant et en lui donnant un sens : nous comprenons nos actes ou ceux des autres en fonction de règles dont chaque cadre est porteur (2002:34).” However, Goffman’s work appears to be more concerned with how individuals’ framings of various activities create meaning for themselves, whereas here, the focus will be more on how frames are part of the dynamic social process of signification (i.e. the construction of social reality).

only a *selected* few make it as headlines²⁰. This process of selection is not arbitrary and depends on different criteria – for the news story, these criteria can be summed up in the following six points:

“1) **Simplification**: an event must be recognized as significant and relatively unambiguous in its meaning; 2) **Dramatization**: a dramatized version of the event must be able to be presented; 3) **Personalization**: events must have personal significance to someone; 4) **Themes and Continuity**: events that fit into preconceived themes gain in newsworthiness; 5) **Consonance**: events make the news more readily when they fit the reporter’s preconceived notions of what should be happening; 6) **The Unexpected**: unexpected events that can be expected within frames of reference used by reporters are newsworthy. (Jean Desbarats²¹, cited in Lorimer and Gasher, 2001: 100).

What these criteria show is that journalists, editors and others involved in the process of news making *decide* which events will be covered and which ones will not. Thus, though it may be perceived that *readers* choose their news, in a way, their news is chosen for them. These criteria also provide the “news story frame”; that is to say how news stories are constructed so as to allow specific interpretations and rule out others. Each criterion constitutes a part of the framing process.

If we go back to the examples of diseases that were featured in chapter 1 (AIDS/HIV, anthrax, SARS and the avian flu) we can see that they all correspond in some way or another to the prescribed criteria set out above. To illustrate:

²⁰ According to Laurent Gervereau in *Inventer l’actualité: la construction imaginaire du monde par les médias internationaux* : “[...] l’actualité est toujours “inventée” par le choix d’une minorité de faits qui sont retenus (par rapport à d’autres exclus (2004:130)”.
²¹ Former dean of journalism at the University of Western Ontario.

1) Simplification: disease is an unambiguous concept; we all have a preconceived notion in our collective consciousness as to what disease is; 2) Dramatization: Especially in the case of AIDS where certain communities were stigmatized in the news making process, all diseases featured in the news can be (and have been in the past) dramatized; 3) Personalization: In the case of SARS, the local newspapers highlighted the fact that SARS was occurring on Canadian soil – thus many Canadians personalized the SARS stories; 4) Themes and Continuity: As shown in chapter 1, the simple chronology of diseases featured in the press demonstrates that there is continuity in coverage of diseases; 5) Consonance: Reporters anticipate disaster and disease; they share a preconceived notion that at any point disaster and disease may strike (hence the repetition of words like “epidemic” in headlines concerning virulent diseases like SARS and the avian flu); 6) The Unexpected: Certain aspects of disease can be unexpected and thus be newsworthy. For instance, initially AIDS was thought to be a discriminatory disease (only affecting and infecting certain communities like Black communities, or homosexual communities), but this was disproved and in turn, it was unexpected. Because the concept of “disease” corresponds to the various criteria that define to an extent what is “newsworthy”, it is no wonder that diseases permeate most of the articles in our daily papers, which in turn contributes to the collective fear of disease. But again, we must remind ourselves that this is a result of news *selection* and it is not innocent.

Another factor that cannot be ignored in the process of what constitutes news is the commercial gain of the press. *Mass Communication in Canada* touches on this issue in section called “*Making News (and Profits?)*”. Lorimer and Gasher state: “[...] most journalists in Canada work for commercial news organizations and as such, are also implicated in generating profits for their owners (2001:250).” This implies that journalists have to take into consideration which stories will attract readers and in turn ensure the

newspaper's commercial viability. Newspapers tend to attract specific readerships and the goal is to cement a relationship between newspaper and reader. Thus, newspapers will specifically cater to the needs of their readers because from the readers' perspectives it seems as though the newspaper is attentive to their needs and wants; however, the reality is that by catering to the needs of readers there is capital gain for the commercial news organization. Again, what is perceived as "innocent" and "objective" is often mediated not only by *selection* but also by *profitability*. If readers did not respond to stories that covered health issues such as disease, it is highly plausible that newspapers would cease to report such stories. However, since it is a reoccurring trend in various newspapers that disease is a headline favourite, it is safe to assume that readers respond and purchase their newspapers accordingly; after all, they want to know how to protect themselves and their loved ones from the threat of disease.

Journalistic style is another way in which our news is subtly mediated. If one reads a story about the same event in two different newspapers, chances are there will be slight or major differences in the style of reporting. For instance, tabloid-like newspapers are more likely to rely on sensationalist rhetoric to appeal to blue-collar audiences, whereas more serious newspapers are likely to put on a more "objective" front, as they cater most often to a more sophisticated and learned audience (Lorimer and Gasher, 2001: 250, Russell, 2006: 6). However, just because a story is featured in a more serious paper, this does not mean that there is no subjectivity in the article that is apparently objective. We are reminded of this fact by Lorimer and Gasher in the section "*Making News (and Profits?)*":

"Besides [the] structural factors affecting the judgment of news, ideological factors also come into play. Owners, managers, and journalists all subscribe to certain beliefs about how the world works and these beliefs influence what gets covered and how.

[...] such bias in the judgement of news assumes [subtle] forms and may not be readily detectable to readers and viewers, many of whom will share the bias (251).”

For example, if AIDS stories were featured in newspapers with a religious slant, the links between the homosexual community and AIDS may have been further accentuated, since homosexuality is condemned in most religious communities. Readers may not be able to see this “framing” as it simply confirms their beliefs and the religious ideology with which they identify. This is an extreme example, but it effectively demonstrates how an ideological slant can affect news making.

Also, it is impossible to ignore the notion of “deadline” in the news. Often, journalists must abide by strict deadlines – a story must be ready for print at a specific time. This puts a level of stress on the journalist’s shoulders and may affect the quality of the research done for a specific story. Additionally, newspapers often seek to be the “first” to cover a specific story²², which means they may not have all the information necessary to provide readers with “both sides of the story”.

Lastly, we cannot ignore the role of news wires. Often newspapers will rely on international or national news agencies (often referred to as news wires²³) to provide news bullets. Though the material received from news wires is copyrighted, thus cannot be altered²⁴ other than cropping, shortening or summarizing, the very act of cropping, shortening and summarizing is another form of mediating a news story²⁵. Also, newspapers

²²Relates back to the concept of commercial profit.

²³ News wire: A service transmitting the latest news stories, e.g. via teleprinter, satellite, or the Internet. Barber, Katherine, ed. (2002) *The Canadian Oxford Dictionary*. Don Mills, Ont.: Oxford University Press.

²⁴ Information obtained 14 June 2006 during phone conversation with CP representative Patrick White (adjoint au chef du service français de la Presse Canadienne à Montréal).

²⁵ In *Ce que parler veut dire* (1982), French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu touches on the concept of censorship and formal constraints in the chapter titled : “Censure et mise en forme” (p. 167-205).

can *choose* the prominence they give to news wire stories (Lorimer and Gasher 2001: 236). News wires do not imply an absolute value of objectivity to the story.

Though journalism does seek “truth” and “objectivity”²⁶ as ideals, we can see to what extent the “truth” is dependent on several factors: deadlines, what makes a newsworthy story, the perceived audience, etc. In this section we focused on illustrating some of the ways news stories *appear* objective but how they are actually mediated and present varying levels of subjectivity. Sections Three and Four of this chapter will now focus on providing a recent example of how the Canadian press (whether in French or in English) plays a role in furthering the association made between disease and fear through the veil of objectivity. Section Five will take into account an analysis of translated articles of the same nature (articles relating to the avian flu) and how translation may contribute to an additional space for Canadians to encounter fear-based rhetoric.

2.2 Socio-Cultural Context

As Chapter 1 explained, ever since the unfortunate events of September 11th, 2001, the masses have been plagued by potential threats in the media. Terrorism, SARS, environmental problems, etc.; if it had potential for dramatization and fear, the media covered it. In 2004, Canada had just recently “recovered” from the latest medical threat, SARS. During that time, the media had painted such a grim picture of hospitals being unprepared and understaffed it was no wonder people began to be increasingly concerned and fearsome.

²⁶ Objectivity and truth are so closely associated with another it is difficult to distinguish their definitions. *Morals and the Media* suggests that objectivity implies more than truth: it implies the notions of thoroughness, realistic organization, balance, proper focus, unbiased selection of facts, etc. (2006: 36). However, as I have sought to point out, these notions are virtually impossible to achieve, despite the claim of many journalists to be able to.

This is the socio-cultural backdrop that needs to be considered when studying the current portrayal of the avian flu as recent medical threat. Had the world not been bombarded with “medical scares” in recent news, perhaps the avian flu would not have been reported, as this would erase the criterion of themes and continuity; or, it could be suggested that if the avian flu was the first occurrence of a “medical threat” in the news, there would be no need to resort to sensationalist fear-based rhetoric as the very occurrence of such a virus would be a novelty. But, this is not the case, as the following case study will try to demonstrate.

Section 2: Methodological Overview

Chapter 1 focused on bringing to the fore the correlation between fear and disease and how the media plays an active role in the construction and dissemination of this correlation. The press’s authority as social institution deters the general populace from engaging in overt criticism, and it takes for granted much of what the media relays as “truth”. Unfortunately, the lack of intervention leads society to a dreadful state of constant anxiety and perhaps, more often than not, unnecessary fear.

I have also suggested that translation, and more specifically translation of Canadian press articles, contributes to the fear-based rhetoric “epidemic”. With translation, a press article, initially meant for a specific audience, at a specific time and place, now acts as a new space of contagion. Translation replicates ideas meant for a certain communicative instance, but displaces these ideas in time and space: readers of a translation are seldom aware that they are confronted with translated material. Thus, from one starting point, the source text, translation allows for another “contagious space”.

The rest of the present chapter will focus on how the avian flu is presented as something to be feared in Canadian press articles, and more specifically, the discursive strategies used to further this perception.

The theoretical framework I will be using to conduct my analysis is that of critical discourse analysis. Through the discourse analysis lens, we can lift the veil on the hidden intentions and subjective nature of texts we take for granted as being objective (for instance, journalism discourse and scientific discourse). This framework will be applied to three specific corpora of press articles and news wires: 1) a corpus of French-Canadian articles relating to the avian flu; 2) a corpus of English-Canadian news wire articles on the avian flu; 3) a corpus of English to French translations of the news wire articles featured in the corpus of English-Canadian news wire articles. The goal will be to highlight the similar and differing discursive strategies used by English and French-Canadian press communities to evoke fear of the avian flu, and to see whether or not these same strategies are used in the translational process.

2.3 What is Discourse and Critical Discourse Analysis?

It is only in the latter part of the 20th century that we have begun looking at language from the point of view of the socio-cultural context in which it is produced. In the 1950s and 1960s, most of the attention language received was from the point of view of Ferdinand de Saussure's concepts of language as a system comprised of linguistic signs. Linguistic signs were bipartite and consisted of the signifier (an acoustic image) and the signified (a concept) (Macey, 2000: 352). Consequently, language was studied abstracted from a socio-cultural moment of production – in other words, language was not considered from the point of view of variable *parole* (in Saussurian terms).

However, in recent scholarship, from the late 1970s onwards, there is interest in studying language from the point of view of discourse – that is to say “language in use” (Locke, 2004:9, Van Dijk, 1985 v.4: 1). This study of language “in use” is referred to as “discourse analysis”. Van Dijk states:

“Discourse analysis, thus, is essentially a contribution to the study of language ‘in use’. Besides – or even instead – of an explication of the abstract structures of texts or conversations, we witness a concerted interest for the cognitive and especially the social processes, strategies, and contextualization of discourse taken as a mode of interaction in highly complex sociocultural situations (1985 v.4:1)”.

Discourse as “language in use” suggests that there is dynamism, that is to say interaction between an addresser and an addressee²⁷. This interaction thus implies an intended communicative goal between addresser and addressee, and discourse analysis looks to demystify this goal – “it provides insight into the forms and mechanisms of human communication and interaction (Van Dijk, 1985 v.4:4)”.

Also, discourse analysis can provide us with a framework that can enable criticism and alternatives: this is what is called “critical discourse analysis”. Critical discourse analysis (or CDA) is generally referred to as an interdisciplinary, supra-linguistic approach to studying discourse. In the words of Norman Fairclough, one of the founders of CDA (Locke, 2004:1), the aim of CDA is:

“to systematically explore often opaque relationships of causality and determination between (a) discursive practices, events and texts, and (b) wider social and cultural structures, relations and processes; to investigate how such practices, events and texts arise out of and are ideologically shaped by relations of power and struggles over power (cited in Locke, 2004:1)”.

CDA allows us to also consider discourse in institutional settings. As mentioned in the *John Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism*:

²⁷ From this perspective we can consider discourse as in a type of social action and not just a string of words one after the others.

“most of the very large amount of work on language in institutional settings (medical, legal, educational, media) explores the intertwining of discourse and historical-material fact, either through the shaping and maintaining of the “client” (pupil) role or through the management and manipulation of mass audiences (Grodén & Kreiswirth eds., 1999:211)”.

In the case of my project, CDA will be used to demonstrate how fear is produced in two different Canadian linguistic communities via the press, which I contend is a form of “managing and manipulating mass audiences”. Once we apply CDA to any given instance of communication, the way is paved to be critical and question the status quo. For instance, once we realize to what extent the press plays a role in telling us what we should fear, why we should fear, and how we should fear, we can begin demanding a more responsible and ethical press. Additionally, in the context of practical translation and translation studies, CDA can be used as a strategy by translators in order to approach their translations in a more critical fashion. CDA assists the translator in discovering supplementary levels of meaning that may not have been apparent superficially. Translators can then use this information to decide which translation strategies to adopt under different circumstances. As well, CDA can act as another framework for the assessment of translation output – by understanding the socio-politico-cultural context of a given target text, we may better understand why the translator made certain choices. Dominant ideologies of an era can often dictate what is admissible in public discourse, and this includes the production of translated material. CDA offers a framework that rids translators of the value judgement of “good” or “bad” translation.

2.4 Corpora

The challenge for this specific project was finding articles that had been translated. In most cases, translation is seldom acknowledged in the press. As we have seen in previous sections thus far, newspapers are aware that readers seek to identify with the reported content; perhaps the evidence of translation would deter some readers.

Thus, the key was to find an instance in Canadian press where translation occurred. Canadian Press News Wire was the answer. Often referred to as CP, Canadian Press News Wire's English service started in 1917, while the French service was introduced in 1951. Essentially, Canadian Press News Wire collects news nationally and internationally. CP has its own reporters located throughout the country and relies on technology to ensure that news delivery meets certain deadlines²⁸. CP also takes on the task of translating its English content into French. This is done by CP reporters, not by professional translators *per se*, nor by a separate translation bureau or agency. The reporters that take on the task of translation are located in CP's Montreal offices²⁹. Though it puts into question the status of the translator and the visibility of translation in general (which will be discussed further on in Chapter 3), CP's translated content provided me with an opportunity to look at how translation occurs in the press.

Accordingly, CP provided me with material for two corpora. On one hand, a corpus of English source articles (to study how the anglophone press constructs fear), and on the other hand, French target articles (to observe what happens to press articles and their discursive content through translation). What remained to find was a corpus of French source

²⁸ For more information pertaining to history, ownership and functioning of CP:
The Canadian Press. Toronto, Canada. 6 June 2006
<http://www.cp.org/english/hp.htm>.

²⁹ Information obtained 14 June 2006 during phone conversation with CP representative Patrick White (adjoint au chef du service français de la Presse Canadienne à Montréal).

articles with which to compare not only the English source articles, but also the target articles.

Luckily, more and more newspapers are offering their content via the Internet. Using an online database, I was able to put together a corpus of French source articles from a prominent Québec daily: *Le Soleil*. The reasoning behind my choosing *Le Soleil* is that firstly, it is a reputable paper that has been published since 1896, and secondly, that it has a considerable average of 100 000 readers daily³⁰. I do realize it does not take into account French communities outside of Québec, but it was essential to set certain restrictions for my corpus and this was one of them. Perhaps in future studies, the dailies of other French communities, like that of St-Boniface in Manitoba, could be considered.

To summarize, my case study will look at three different corpora:

- 1) French source articles (taken from *Le Soleil*)**
- 2) English source articles (taken from Canadian Press News Wire)**
- 3) French target articles (translated from Canadian Press news wires featured in the unilingual English corpus, and published in various Québec dailies)**

The time span I have chosen to consider is from January 2004 to April 2006. The reasons behind these dates are simple: the avian flu really made its mark in the press after the advent of SARS (2003-2004) and also, very few articles relating to the H5N1 strain were available in translation prior to 2004.

³⁰ For more information pertaining to history, ownership and functioning of *Le Soleil*:
Le Soleil. Québec, Canada. 6 June 2006
<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/apps/pbcs.dll/section?Category=CPSOLEIL>

Section 3: Case Study: Avian Flu/ French Corpus from *Le Soleil*

2.5 French-language Analysis

The first part of my case study will seek to establish some of the discursive trends and strategies used by the francophone press to convey fear of the avian flu. Consequently, all the selected articles had to correspond to certain criteria: 1) each article had to be written in French, with no affiliation to another agency (e.g. Canadian Press News Wire, Agence France Press, etc.), 2) the article had to be written between January 2004 and April 2006, 3) to avoid comparing two different types of journalism, the articles selected had to be similar in form to the Canadian Press News wire articles of the other two corpora; that is, short in length and they could not be editorials, opinion pieces or comments from readers (thus, seemingly “objective” news stories of current events). An electronic search in the BiblioBranchée³¹ database provided me with 25 articles that met these criteria. Of these 25 articles, I selected 10: 3 from each year of the corpus (to the exception of 2005, where 4 articles were chosen). My selection attempted to be as objective as possible, as the main goal was only to reduce the amount of articles so as to be able to provide a more detailed analysis. The articles that were kept for analysis were those that illustrated the use of fear the most through discursive elements such as verb tenses, adjectives, connotations, tonality, etc. Furthermore, some articles, though they did discuss the avian flu, did not do so sufficiently in order to justify retaining them.

2.6 Une Subjectivité Objective: *Le Soleil*'s seemingly Objective Coverage of the Avian Flu

Thus far, we can conclude that generally the discourse of the press is associated with a certain level of objectivity. We often assume that what is presented to us as a news story is

³¹ Database comprised of North American and European French-language press that is accessible through the University of Ottawa's proxy.

the “truth” as we do not necessarily have access to the reported information. However, a closer look at the articles from *Le Soleil* reveals the many discursive elements that subtly mediate our understanding of the avian flu reality – is the avian flu something we should really fear? Or, is it simply framed that way? This analysis will demonstrate how *Le Soleil* frames the avian flu as an ever-current threat.

The world in which we live is permeated with the concept of “now”. With technological advances that have made ‘round the clock communication possible and instantaneity omnipresent, we are used to things being fast-paced. This mentality of “now” can also be seen in the reading and reporting of our news. The first thing most readers will do when they pick up their daily paper is to look at the front page headlines and select the articles they will read accordingly. Headlines thus play a paramount role in grabbing readers’ attentions. In fact, some people may only read headlines, instead of taking the time to fully read the entire article.

“As every page needs a picture, so every story needs some form of headline. Moreover, long experience has shown editors that headlines do much more than merely summarize a story [...] they titillate readers, to encourage them to try this particular item, and they help guide readers round the page, showing the comparative importance of each story (Russell, 2006: 198).”

Once again, we see how even the reading of news is guided – headlines try to catch our attention using all sorts of different strategies including sensationalism. I will proceed to investigate how French-language headlines have used fear-based rhetoric in their headlines when covering the avian flu. In order to do this, I compiled all 10 headlines used (see **Table 2.1**).

TABLE 2.1
ISOTOPIY OF HEADLINES FEATURING THE AVIAN FLU
IN FRENCH-LANGUAGE PRESS FROM JANUARY 2004- APRIL 2006

January 2004-December 2004	January 2005-December 2005	January 2006- April 2006
-La grippe aviaire menace : Ce qu'il faut savoir sur la grippe aviaire (28 jan. 04, Actualités, p.A3) -Grippe Aviaire : Le Canada démuni : le directeur de l'Institut des maladies infectieuses juge que le pays manque d'experts pour faire face à une épidémie (4 fév. 04, Actualités, p.A3) -Grippe Aviaire: Shire en état d'alerte (9 fév. 04, Économie, p.C1)	-Alerte à la grippe aviaire: Plans de match en cas de crise : Le Canada et le Québec devraient faire face à des choix difficiles (28 mai 2005, Actualités, p.A3) -Alerte à la grippe aviaire : Démystifier la maladie (28 mai 2005, La Une – Actualités pp. A1-A2) -Le Canada surveille de près la grippe aviaire (26 août 2005, Actualités, p.A5) -Danger de pandémie de grippe : Le ministère de la Santé accélère ses préparatifs (8 oct. 2005, La Une – Actualités, p.A1)	-Grippe aviaire : L'Europe en état d'alerte (7 jan. 2006, Actualités, p.A5) -Un test pour détecter la grippe aviaire : Des chercheurs du CHUL tenteront aussi de prévoir les mutations du virus (13 jan. 2006, Actualités, p.A3) -Éventuelle pandémie de grippe aviaire au Canada : 100 millions \$ pour un antiviral dont on ignore l'efficacité sur l'humain : Il n'existe aucune preuve de l'efficacité du célèbre Tamiflu. (19 jan. 2006, Actualités, p.A10)

It is suggested in *Mass Communication in Canada* that news stories are generally organized according to an inverted pyramid: important information comes first (2002: 100), details second. According to this postulate, headlines should then contain the most important information as they generally constitute what news readers first see. However, if we take a look at the headlines feature in table 2.1 what we realize is that the headlines do not necessarily provide the most relevant information (generally referred to as the *five w's* of “who, what, when, where and why”) – instead, most headlines emphasize the concept of “menace” and worst-case scenario.

Another example of sensationalism is the use of power words in the headlines. Power words are the opposite of euphemisms: instead of using words that have little connotative

value (i.e. that only rely on their denotative meaning), *Le Soleil* uses power words that are semantically loaded. A lexical network of these words can be put together:

Table 2.2 – Lexical Network of Power Words in *Le Soleil* Jan. 2004 – April 2006

Lexical Network of Power Words	Menace, épidémie, pandémie (x2), crise, état d’alerte (x2), danger, aucune preuve
---------------------------------------	---

These words could have been replaced by synonyms in order to portray a more neutral situation. For example, instead of “épidémie” and “pandémie” which suggest widespread contagion (even though at press time, the avian flu was nowhere near the status of either “épidémie” or “pandémie”), a more neutral description of the phenomenon could have been used. The addition of the power word “menace” also characterizes the avian flu – instead of simply introducing articles with the title “grippe aviaire”, many headlines formed a collocation combining “La grippe aviaire menace” which adds a new semantic dimension: that of the threat. When the press repeats headlines such as this one, the public begins to have difficulty disassociating the avian flu with the concept of threat – headlines are a way in which the press filters sensationalism into every day discourse. Repetition also leads to a value of “truth” – the more something is said and repeated, we more often forget to ask ourselves how it became to be accepted in the first place. For instance, let us consider “La grippe aviaire menace” from a critical perspective: Who is stating that the avian flu is threatening? Why is the avian flu threatening? The only way we can attempt to answer these questions is to read the full-length article, but not all readers do this, consequently, the only perception a news reader may have of the avian flu is what the headlines suggest.

Headlines also provide a mediated context. If a reader has no notion of the avian flu *a priori*, the headline will frame the story (which in turn frames the avian flu as social reality). For example, the headline “Grippe Aviaire : Le Canada démuni : le directeur de l’Institut des

maladies infectueuses juge que le pays manque d'experts pour faire face à une épidémie" tells the reader that Canada is not aptly prepared to face an epidemic. Accordingly, the reader may not form his or her own opinion or reality of the avian flu; the headline will be taken as "truth" and the rest of the article will be read in a fearsome mindset.

Another interesting discursive phenomenon that can be exemplified by these headlines is the evolution of the terminology used to describe the avian flu³². In the 2004 headlines, the avian flu is described as "une épidémie" while in the 2005 headlines it is described as "une pandémie". Why the semantic increase? A series of speculative answers could be provided, but again, what can be noted is that readers are once again kept on edge – at first they are told the avian flu is an epidemic, next they are told it is a pandemic. The avian flu then becomes more menacing only because the press has made it discursively so.

Verb tenses are another way in which framing is achieved. Throughout all of the articles in the French-language corpus, a significant number of verbs were either in present tense or in present conditional in reference to the avian flu threat. The use of the present tense forces readers to perceive the avian flu as a current event, not yesterday's news – as stated in *Traité de l'argumentation : La nouvelle rhétorique*: "le présent est le temps [...] de ce qui est considéré toujours comme actuel, jamais périmé (Perelman and Olbrechts-Tyteca, 1983: 216)". Verbs also pace the rhythm of the article³³; using the present throughout an article gives a sense of urgency to the information, and this sense of urgency is necessary to engage

³² In *Naissance de la Clinique*, Foucault observes that 18th century, the term "épidémie" was used to describe any instance of similar diseases occurring simultaneously, regardless of contagion: "on donne le nom de maladies épidémiques à toutes celles qui attaquent en même temps, et avec des caractères immuables, un grand nombre de personnes à la fois (1963:22)". For instance, headaches could have been considered an epidemic as they could affect multiple individuals simultaneously; thus contagion was not a necessary criterion. The contemporary usage of "épidémie" and "pandémie", contrary to the usage of 18th century, strongly connotes the notion of contagion and, even more so, the non-discriminatory nature of virulent diseases.

³³ BRISSET, Annie (2005), *TRA 6902: Discours et Traduction (Fall 2005 Seminar)*, Ottawa: University of Ottawa .

the reader, and subsequently evoke fear. In a chapter entitled *Discours et récit*, Dominique Maingueneau discusses the use of present tense verbs: “Appartiennent au discours les énoncés oraux ou écrits référés à l’instance d’énonciation [...] un énoncé utilisant les «temps» du discours [which includes the present] est posé comme lié à l’actualité de son énonciateur, entretenant avec son présent un lien «vivant» (1981:55)”. In other words, the present tense creates a common temporal link between addresser (the implicit journalist) and addressee (the reader of the article). As such, the addresser (though not explicitly present) subjectively frames the avian flu situation for the addressee.

However, an interesting temporal shift occurs when the articles discuss the avian flu as worst-case scenario. As of April 2006, there has not been an avian flu (H5N1 strain) epidemic, but throughout the analyzed *Le Soleil’s* articles, the present conditional mode is used to suggest that in a near, albeit imprecise, future such an epidemic will occur. This type of textual anticipation, or flash-forward, is called *prolepsis*. Examples of prolepses using the present conditional are numerous; a few examples: “le virus muté pourrait alors se répandre extrêmement rapidement (28 Jan. 2004)”, “Surtout, la mortalité d’un nouveau virus grippal serait bien supérieure à celle du SRAS (28 Jan. 2004)”, “On parlerait alors d’une pandémie (9 Feb. 2004)”, “le problème, c’est que l’amalgame de deux virus humain et aviaire d’influenza créerait un tout nouveau virus contre lequel personne n’est immunisé (28 May 2005)”, “jusqu’au tiers de la population pourrait être malade (28 May 2005)”, etc. Readers cannot help but anticipate that an avian flu epidemic will occur, but they are left without knowing precisely when, or if it will even happen at all. This verbal cohesion plays on two types of fear: the fear of the avian flu as disease³⁴ and the fear of the unknown. The use of the

³⁴ Which as we have seen, plays into Western’s society’s fear of disease in general – see Chapter 1.

present conditional in prolepses creates an undertone of uncertainty which may also lead some readers to question the accuracy of the reporting.

But the press is a fine-tuned discursive machine and is keenly aware that the use of the present conditional may create sufficient doubt for some readers to be skeptical of the actual threat. Accordingly, *Le Soleil* has used other elements of discourse to solidify the notion of “imminent” threat. One of these other elements is the use of adverbs. Adverbs function as “shifters” of meaning – like verb tenses, they are used to pace reading and invite the reader to share a mutual position *vis-à-vis* the topic being discussed. Like the present tense, these adverbs contextualize the avian flu in a “present” for the addressee, in turn setting the notion that the avian flu is a current and constant cause for worry. The examples from the corpus are numerous: “il semble que le virus n’ait maintenant plus besoin de circonstances exceptionnelles pour passer à l’humain (28 Jan. 2004)”, “les experts du monde entier sont actuellement sur le qui-vive afin de trouver une solution à la grippe aviaire (9 Feb. 2004)”, “Présentement, la grippe A/H5N1 est à l’avant-scène, inquiète, même si plusieurs « sortes » de gripes sont actives (28 May 2005)”, “Maintenant, à cause de la capacité de voyager, peut-être que le premier cas va arriver dans un mois ou moins. (28 May 2005)”, “Les organismes responsables de la santé publique, tant fédéral que québécois, continuent de surveiller de près la progression du virus de la grippe aviaire, qui est maintenant aux portes de l’Europe (26 Août 2005)”, “Chaque nouvelle alerte incite les experts du gouvernement, qui se réunissent déjà sur une base régulière, à revoir les préparatifs (8 Oct. 2005)”, “À l’heure actuelle, c’est la grippe aviaire, le H5N1, qui fait craindre le pire aux autorités (8 Oct. 2005)”, “les projecteurs étant maintenant braqués sur le nouvel ennemi, on le débusque (7 Jan. 2006)”, “L’OMS craint toujours que le virus mute pour se répandre plus facilement (7 Jan. 2006)”. As we can see, even though the actual chronological dates change, the avian flu

is always shifted back into a current temporal space for the addressee. Like the verb tenses, this sets a tone of urgency and a sense of impending threat. The reader is kept on edge: the use of the conditional suggests the threat is impending while the adverbs “shift” the threat to a “now”. This discursive limbo provides textual ambiguity that allows for multiple interpretations on the reader’s end, alternating notably between fear and doubt. These shifters may also manage to convince dubious readers that even though there is a significant use of the conditional mode, the avian flu epidemic is still something that worries *now*.

These examples aptly demonstrate how language “in use” may seem neutral and objective at first glance, however, this is rarely the case. Shifters and verbs acquire additional levels of meaning when they are analyzed within their communicative context.

Another postulate in relation to the discourse of the press is that it merely states facts “as they are, as they occurred”. Seldom do people realize that in fact, news stories function much like argumentative texts. As we have seen with verbs and shifters, the press is trying to *convince* its readership that there is reason to fear the avian flu. *Le Soleil* notably attempts to persuade its readership to fear the avian flu by resorting to the medical community. Generally, the public ascribes a level of authority and legitimacy to the institution of the press. However, sometimes the press’s authority is not sufficient to render a story entirely credible or legitimate. We are reminded here of Foucault: “The doctor becomes the great advisor and expert (1980: 177).” In the context of the avian flu, *Le Soleil* has relied heavily on citing medical experts to convince its readership of the impending threat of contagion. The voice of medical discourse has earned the status of “truth” provider in our contemporary society – as Foucault suggested “‘truth’ is centered on the form of scientific discourse and the institutions which produce it (1980: 131).”

An effective argumentative text manages to convince readers of the probability and likelihood of a given hypothesis or situation³⁵ and one way *Le Soleil* does this is by relying on the authority of the medical community. Consider the following assertion: “le H5N1 est beaucoup plus contagieux que le SRAS (28 Jan. 2004)”; compare it to: “les épidémiologistes estiment que le H5N1 est beaucoup plus contagieux que le SRAS”. The addition of “épidémiologistes” furthers the credibility of the statement because the reader is likely to presume that epidemiologists possess the necessary medical background to assess medical threats, whereas the journalist may not. In this sense, the actual identity of the epidemiologists is almost irrelevant – the word itself connotes expertise, which may be sufficient to convince the reader.

But are medical titles like “épidémiologistes” sufficient to instigate fear in the most sceptical of readers? It is not likely. Accordingly, *Le Soleil* has dosed its avian flu articles with the names of a good measure of medical experts: “précise Jean-Claude Manuguerra, virologue (28 Jan. 2004)”, “ajoute Philippe Barboza, épidémiologiste (28 Jan. 2004)”, “Le Dr Singh souligne (4 Feb. 2004)”, “expose le Dr Guy Boivin, microbiologiste et infectiologue (4 Feb. 2004)”, “expose Dre Sylvie Trottier, microbiologiste (28 May 2005)”, “juge le Dr Paul Gully (28 May 2005)”, “le Dr Savard assure (8 Oct. 2005)” “Dr Horacio Arruda (28 May 2005)”, “le Dr Michel Bergeron qualifie (13 Jan. 2006)”, etc. Experts, and the general terms to designate them (e.g. doctors, epidemiologists, virologists, etc.) do provide a sense of legitimacy to the information found in the article – however, general terms remain anonymous, providing no sense of familiarity. *Le Soleil* chooses to personalize the cited

³⁵ BRISSET, Annie (2005), *TRA 6902: Discours et Traduction (Fall 2005 Seminar)*, Ottawa: University of Ottawa .

experts by identifying their exact names, titles and locations of practice. For the reader, this works on two levels:

- it offers a sense of tangible familiarity with the expert which generates trust
- trust in the expert leads to trust in the information they are attesting as factual (a name provides accountability for the information).

Moreover, *Le Soleil* includes interviews with the experts. As we know, the journalist has power to insert a quote from an interview wherever they deem necessary – the structure of an argumentative text is not purely logical, it is psychological as it plays on the *pathos*³⁶ of the audience. Journalists may choose to only cite the more novel or shocking parts of an interview, as they comply with the sensationalism necessary to evoke fear. For instance, in an interview with Dr Boivin (28 May 2005), *Le Soleil* asks “Pourquoi des spécialistes ont peur de la grippe aviaire” to which he answers: “Parce qu’il y a des signes inquiétants. [...] Le H5N1, c’est le plus grand candidat pour une prochaine pandémie”. First and foremost, the reader has no proof that the published question was the actual question asked in the initial interview. Secondly, there is no evidence that this is exactly how Dr Boivin answered³⁷. The journalist may have only chosen to include this quote because it very clearly states that the H5N1 avian flu strain is cause for worry. In fact, the use of the punctuation “[...]” indicates some information was cut. But, psychologically, the quote is effective because a) a medical expert, voice of ‘truth’ in our Western society, is providing the information which asserts validity and probability to the hypothesis that the avian flu poses a fear-worthy threat and b)

³⁶ *Pathos*: “tout ce qui suscite émotions, passions et sentiments dans l’auditoire” in BRISSET, Annie (2005), *TRA 6902: Discours et Traduction (Fall 2005 Seminar)*, Ottawa: University of Ottawa .

³⁷ This is echoed in Jean-Noël Kapferer’s *Rumeurs: Le plus vieux média du monde*: “Lorsque nous rapportons une information lue dans un journal, nous supposons qu’elle a été vérifiée, mais n’en avons aucune preuve. La notion de vérification est donc indissociable de la personne présumée faire cette vérification. Si nous n’avons pas confiance en elle, nous doutons qu’il s’agisse d’une information vérifiée (1990:14)”.

it stirs up the emotions (*pathos*) of the readership – two elements that are necessary to construct an effective argumentative strategy.

The metaphor constitutes another key element of the argumentative strategy. It is a way of likening a current event to a recognizable narrative for the reader. *Le Soleil* has used the metaphor of war to describe the avian flu. I have put together a metaphorical isotopy³⁸ illustrating this strategy:

TABLE 2.3

Metaphorical Isotopy “La grippe aviaire comme guerre”	le virus H5N1 dispose de <u>deux stratégies</u> / d’où sont invitation pressante à l’investissement public pour <u>dresser une armée d’experts</u> , pour réviser nos <u>défenses</u> / de bien comprendre <u>l’ennemi potentiel</u> / <u>les ravages pourraient être considérables</u> / en plus, des mammifères <u>commencent à tomber au combat</u> / le virus de la grippe part des oiseaux et <u>colonise</u> des mammifères/ la <u>Sécurité civile</u> entrerait dans la danse/ pour le moment <u>le niveau d’alerte reste inchangé au stade 3</u> / le ministère de la Santé du Québec accélère l’élaboration de son <u>plan d’urgence</u> / Québec songe maintenant à se <u>constituer une réserve d’équipements nécessaires en cas de pandémie</u> / D’ici là, le ministère devrait également présenter avant la fin de l’année 2005 un <u>Plan québécois de gestion contre le terrorisme</u> / les projecteurs étant maintenant <u>braqués sur le</u>
--	---

³⁸ Greimas states in *Sémantique Structurale*: “Par isotopie nous entendons un ensemble redondant de catégories sémantiques qui rend possible la lecture uniforme du récit” as cited in: BRISSET, Annie (2005), *TRA 6902: Discours et Traduction (Fall 2005 Seminar)*, Ottawa: University of Ottawa .

	nouvel ennemi, on le <u>débusque</u> / <u>se protéger</u> / c'est à peu près <u>la seule arme</u> qu'on a
--	--

This isotopy forces the reader to perceive the avian flu as an enemy. The discourse of war is omnipresent in our everyday lives, especially since September 11th, 2001 and the beginning of the war in Iraq in 2003. Every threat, medical or otherwise, is described in terms of a war and the avian flu is no exception. However, by likening the H5N1 virus to a war, *Le Soleil* creates fear. Readers who have lived through previous conflict know first-hand the consequences of war: death, economic turmoil, instability, etc. Thus, if the avian flu threat is likened to a war, the aforementioned consequences are what will come to people's minds, which of course generates not only the fear of disease, but the sensation of panic as well. Furthermore, even within this isotopy, we can see another smaller but equally significant isotopy, that of terrorism (highlighted in blue). Terrorism is another source of fear in our society, thus by describing the avian flu in the same terms people may have difficulty disassociating them. The example "pour le moment le niveau d'alerte reste inchangé au stade 3" recalls the United-States Homeland Security Threat Advisory, which uses a color-coded system to measure the threat of terrorist attacks on American soil³⁹. Though the avian flu has nothing to do with terrorism, the way of characterizing the threat is relatively similar.

To conclude, *Le Soleil* effectively constructs the avian flu as something to fear; it uses worst-case scenario headlines to frame the reading of the full-text article, verbs and shifters to convey the sense of ever-impending threat, medical terminology to legitimize sensationalist claims and finally, metaphors that liken the avian flu to other non-medical

³⁹ Department of Homeland Security. 23 June 2006.
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/index.jsp>

threats in our contemporary society. The result: readers fearing a virus that may never actually be as widespread as predicted.

Section 4: Case Study: Avian Flu/ English Corpus from Canadian Press Newswire

2.7 English-language Analysis

Now that I have commented on some of the French-language discursive strategies that evoke fear, I can proceed to see how this is done in English-language articles. Again, the goal was to find articles that were seemingly objective (no editorials or opinion pieces) and written between January 2004 and April 2006. Canadian Press news wires were perfect for this corpus as they are originally written in English and correspond to the “current event” format. Evidently, there was a very large occurrence of articles relating to the avian flu (and the more colloquial synonym “bird flu”), which lead to my having to scale down the number of articles to analyze. In total, 9 articles were retained for the analysis following the same criteria as those in the French-language corpus.

2.8 Extra! Extra! Fear All About It: The Avian Flu In Canadian Press News Wires

In the French-language analysis, it was concluded that headlines play an important role in the framing of a news event. The English-language headlines (see Table 2.4), much like those found in *Le Soleil*, generally capitalize on shock-value information to draw in readers; for example: “**Flu pandemic could trigger second Great Depression, brokerage warns clients**”. What’s more, the CP headlines, like *Le Soleil*’s, seem to go against the concept of the inverted pyramid by which headlines should generally abide: rarely is the reader fully informed of the “5 W’s”. The above example illustrates this very well: the reader is not informed of *what* flu strain, or *when* this second Great Depression will occur, or *who* exactly is making this claim (Which brokerage firm and who specifically within the firm?), etc.

Furthermore, the CP headlines discursively increase the threat that the avian flu poses as time passes. In 2004, the avian flu situation was described as a “problem” whereas headlines from 2005 and 2006 abundantly use the term “pandemic”. This example illustrates a semantic shift: the term “problem” supposes a difficult matter that requires a solution, with no precision as to the type of matter, whereas “pandemic” specifically refers to widespread disease involving contagion. Naturally, “problem” will not evoke the same type of reaction as “pandemic”; “pandemic” is likely to cause more fear⁴⁰.

In addition, some headlines compare the avian flu to two other fear-evoking scenarios: bioterrorism and economical crises. Thus, the headlines are simultaneously framing the avian flu as a threat on its own as well as a situation that could spark additional disasters.

TABLE 2.4
ISOTOPY OF HEADLINES FEATURING THE AVIAN FLU
IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS FROM JANUARY 2004- APRIL 2006

January 2004-December 2004	January 2005-December 2005	January 2006- April 2006
-WHO says bird flu problem may take couple of years to contain (Feb. 9, 2004) -Public health agency wants to commission vaccine trial for H5N1 avian flu (Nov. 10, 2004)	-Military intelligence warns that avian flu could be used as weapon: report (March 8, 2005) -Experts worry changes mean avian flu becoming better at infecting people (May 1, 2005) -Flu pandemic could trigger second Great Depression, brokerage warns clients (Aug. 16, 2005) -Sales of key antiviral drug soar as awareness of flu pandemic potential rises (Aug 21 2005)	-Pandemic would drop global GDP growth 2-to-6 percentage points: economist (March 13, 2006) -As public tunes in to pandemic threat, officials worry risk nuances lost (March 19, 2006) -Health Canada warns consumers against products to ‘protect’ against bird flu (March 28, 2006)

⁴⁰ Frank Furedi touches on the topic of disease coverage in printed press: “The most common feature of these disease scares is the systematic exaggeration of the scale of the threat (1997:22)”. In all three corpora, there is a chronological semantic increase of the terms used to describe the avian flu, supporting this perception of “systematic exaggeration”.

CP and *Le Soleil* share the use of the conditional mode insofar as verbs are concerned. The dominant verb tense in the French articles was the present conditional which portrays the avian flu as a probable scenario – and as we have seen, the expression of probability and likelihood is one of the main elements of a convincing argumentative text. The English articles also rely on verbs to express probability, though this is generally done through the use of modals⁴¹. Modality expresses the point of view of the addresser. In the case of the avian flu, the two main recurrent modals are might/may and can/could and in English, these modals are generally used to express probability. A few examples: “avian influenza **might** cause unprecedented levels of human deaths”, “we **could** be dealing with this for a couple of years”, “that experts fear **may** provoke the next flu pandemic”, “avian influenza **could** be used as a weapon of bioterrorism”, “the virus **may** be getting better at infecting humans”, “it **could** trigger a crisis”, “the world **may** be on the verge of a pandemic”, etc. Interestingly, this “probable” information is juxtaposed with expressions using the modal “will”. “Will” is used to express assumptions which are generally asserted with a value of certainty. For example: “many people **will** die”, “it **will** absolutely crunch the economy worldwide”, “there **will** be a pandemic”, “what strain **will** cause the next pandemic”, “H5N1 **will** become a pandemic strain”. Together, the modals of probability and assumption (certainty) frame the avian flu pandemic as a highly plausible situation in the near-future (*prolepsis*).

The English articles are also rich in isotopies that force the reader to perceive the avian flu negatively. For instance, the isotopy of death permeates most of the English corpus, as illustrated with Table 2.5. Death, as Chapter 1 sought to emphasize, is one of humanity’s greatest unknowns, and as such, one of the most common fears. Therefore, when a reader is

⁴¹ Modals are auxiliary verbs that express modality and are characteristic of Germanic languages. In English, the main modals are *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *ought*, *will*, *would*, *shall* and *should*. Auxiliary modals are combined with infinitives to indicate permission, possibility, obligation, deduction, etc.

constantly reminded that the influenza virus has killed throughout history and that the H5N1 avian flu is no different, it may be difficult to disassociate the notion of death from the avian flu. In laymen's terms, when a reader comes across the words "avian flu" what may come to mind is not the notion of disease but rather death, as what is emphasized by CP is not the symptoms or ailments of the H5N1 virus, but rather the fatal outcome.

TABLE 2.5 ISOTOPY of Avian Flu as Death

Unprecedented levels of human deaths/ H5N1 was killing 70 per cent of people infected during the current outbreak/ 18 of whom have died/ six deaths/ fatality/ whether this virus kills 33 or 70 per cent of its victims/ experts estimate between a third and a half of the world's population would fall ill and many millions would die/ killing untold amounts of chickens/ kill several mammalian species/ 32 of these people have died/ die/ virus that caused the Spanish flu of 1918-1919 was so deadly/ that pandemic which may have claimed upwards of 50 million lives worldwide/ H5N1 avian flu strain that has been responsible for more than 45 deaths/ 51 people died/ dead hosts are dead ends/ many people will die/ the toll could mount to scores of millions of deaths/ fatality rates/ the cases appear to have the highest death rates among 15-to-40 year olds/ dead birds/ often too fatal.

Another isotopy was that of the avian flu as biological weapon (Table 2.6). This reminds us of the sub-isotopy of terrorism in the French-language corpus. Again, readers are encouraged to perceive the avian flu as something other than strictly disease. Also, it is impossible to ignore that this plays on the public's recent memory of the anthrax scare of 2001. Portrayed in this manner, some people may no longer view influenza as a naturally occurring virus, but rather as an engineered disease used by terrorists. This furthers the perception of disease being artificial rather than natural, which of course leads to misunderstanding – is the avian flu a disease? Or is it a threat to national security? Or a weapon used by terrorists? Or, is it all of the above?

TABLE 2.6 ISOTOPY of Avian Flu as Biological Weapon

Avian flu could be used as **weapon** / avian influenza could be used as **a weapon of bioterrorism** / Recent Human Outbreaks of Avian Influenza and Potential **Biological Warfare** Implications/ a **manmade strain of influenza** / such forces antigenic shifts could be attempted in a **biological weapons program** / influenza would make a good **bioterrorism agent** / **terrorists** and their supporters would be as likely to fall ill and die as those they hoped to target/ flu makes a good theoretical **bioterror agent**

Similarly, the isotopy of avian flu as economic crisis (Table 2.7) also creates misunderstanding of the situation. Like the other analyzed isotopies, the avian flu is once more presented as more than a disease. The reader is told that not only can the avian flu cause death, but it can also cause financial distress. For the Canadian reader, this isotopy is particularly effective because it not only discusses one of the main causes for anxiety in our society, but it also recalls a recent economic crisis: the SARS outbreak in Toronto. With SARS, economic repercussions did occur: tourism in Toronto dropped affecting many local businesses. Therefore, in discussing the probability of another economic crisis due to disease, Canadians, especially Torontonians, are likely to listen and react. The isotopy of economic crisis also ties in with the parameter of familiarity discussed earlier on, as well as the concept of audience *pathos*: Canadians are familiar with the economic consequences of a viral outbreak

TABLE 2.7 ISOTOPY of Avian Flu as Economical Crisis

Free up several million dollars to commission the work / economic losses / if you want to hurt the world's economy/ Canada estimates the direct and indirect health-care costs alone of a mild flu pandemic would range from \$10 billion to \$24 billion. That doesn't start to count societal costs such as lost productivity because of mass illness or the impact on vulnerable industries such as airlines and tourism or the insurance sector that would be hit with business losses and death claims/ pandemic could trigger second Great Depression / Canadian brokerage firm has added its voice to those warning of the potential impact of an influenza pandemic / real estate values would be slashed, bankruptcies would soar and the insurance industry would be decimated / it's quiet analogous to the Great Depression in many ways / it will absolutely crunch the economy worldwide / the financial world is finally waking up to the fact that this could be the boulder in the gear of the global economy / they warn investors the economic fallout out of a pandemic would inflict pain across sectors and around the globe / airlines would be grounded, transport of goods would cease, the tourism and hospitality sectors would evaporate and the impact on exports would be devastating / this would trigger foreclosures and bankruptcies, credit restrictions and financial panic / Cooper reminded investors of the economic devastation SARS wreaked on affected cities or countries, including Toronto / financial crisis / pandemic would drop global GDP growth 2-to-6 percentage points/ an avian flu pandemic would take a two to six percentage bite out of global economic growth / it could also cause birth rates to plunge and result in an older population, leading to sustained labour shortages/ economic impacts/ the economic impact is likely to be significant, though predictions are subject to a high degree of uncertainty / sharp but only temporary decline in global economic activity / a severe pandemic could pose risks to the global financial system/ market operations could become more disorderly in the case of a breakdown in the trading infrastructure/ a severe pandemic would push global economy to contract for the first time since the Second World War / there would be sustained labour shortages, and demand for housing, cars, electronics and other durable goods would drop/ poultry producers are already suffering/ poultry demand has fallen sharply in Europe

The French and English articles also share another discursive strategy: the voice of the medical community. As I sought to illustrate with the French articles, the medical community is omnipresent in the press in order to legitimize certain medical claims. The English articles are no different; like *Le Soleil*, CP cites a good number of medical experts. Also, in most cases, similarly to what was seen in *Le Soleil*, the names of the experts are cited, as well as their location and specialty, adding a level of familiarity. A few examples: “said Earl Brown, a virologist at the University of Ottawa who specializes in the evolution of

influenza virulence (Feb. 9, 2004)”, “Dr. Frank Plummer, head of the National Microbiology Laboratory which is part of the public health agency (Nov. 10, 2004)”, “Dr. David Fedson, a retired executive of vaccine giant Aventis Pasteur and an expert in influenza vaccines (Nov. 10, 2004), “Dr. Arlene King, head of immunization and respiratory illnesses at the public health agency (Nov. 10, 2004)”, “Dr. Keiji Fukuda, a leading flu expert from the U.S. Centres for Disease Control (Nov. 10, 2004)”, “Dr. Brian Ward, a virologist at McGill University in Montreal (Mar. 8, 2005)”, “Dr. Scott Dowell, the senior official in Southeast Asia for the U.S. Centres for Disease Control (May 1, 2005)”, “Dr. Fred Aoki, an antiviral expert at the University of Manitoba (Aug. 21, 2005)”, “Flu virologist Adolfo Garcia-Sastre (Mar. 19, 2006)”, etc.

As with *Le Soleil*, many of the citations are taken out of their original communicative context; consequently, it is impossible to know whether or not these medical experts truly want to evoke fear in the general populace. In fact, one expert openly discusses this very idea and it was retained in the final article: Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Policy and Research at the University of Minnesota states: “And unfortunately for those of us who have been trying to bring the world to a much higher state of preparedness for pandemic influenza, we have to live often by an eight-word or nine-second sound bite out of a much larger comprehensive message (Mar. 19, 2006)”. In my analysis of both English and French articles, it is true that most citations contain fewer than ten or so words. This aptly demonstrates that the press does not give us the full story, only the parts it deems newsworthy. Readers are then left to understand the avian flu situation partly on their own, piecing bits and pieces of various interviews and articles together to get the larger picture, resulting in anxiety, frustration and misunderstanding.

In fact, proof of this misunderstanding is apparent in some of the articles. A CP article, dated August 21st, 2005, claims that the sales of Tamiflu, an antiviral drug, are soaring due to public fear and concern – people want to protect themselves. Since the press is constantly repeating the message that a pandemic is on the verge of occurring, people have begun to take action: “I basically look at it from the point of view that the government is not going to be able to take care of everyone. And so you’re on your own” says a cited reader who purchased antiviral drugs from an online pharmacy⁴². Why would a reader have this perception? After all, he does not work for the government, nor is he a medical specialist. It is highly plausible that the reader doubts the efficiency of the government in a time of pandemic for the simple reason that the press repeatedly suggests such will be the case; the more something is repeated, the more it is taken as “truth”. In 2004, some medical experts were already suggesting the press was capitalizing on people’s fears: Dr. Schabas, former chief medical officer for Ontario: “The media has a kind of insatiable appetite for this kind of spectacular story. The two [public health agencies and the media] seem to feed together to produce stories that I think don’t give an accurate picture of what’s really going on, or more importantly, an accurate picture of what the real risk to people is⁴³”.

In conclusion, CP’s articles use many discursive devices to frame the avian flu that are similar to those of *Le Soleil*. Headlines resort to shocking information to grab attention, while the article itself uses a variety of strategies to convey fear: the use of familiar narratives such as war and economic crisis; medical experts to legitimize medical claims and

⁴² BRANSWELL, Helen. “Sales of key antiviral drug soar as awareness of flu pandemic potential rises”. Canadian Press News Wire [Toronto, Ont.] 21 Aug. 2005. Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies. ProQuest. ***University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario 13 Jun 2006 <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>.

⁴³ BRANSWELL, Helen. “WHO, media overhyping avian flu’s pandemic potential, expert suggests”[Final Edition]. " Canadian Press News Wire [Toronto, Ont.] 2 Feb. 2004. Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies. ProQuest. ***University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario 13 Jun 2006 <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>.

information; verbs that shift the avian flu into a near and probable future. There is no doubt after analyzing these articles that the press does play an active role in convincing us that the avian flu is an impending threat, which in turn translates into fear and anxiety. Also, the analysis demonstrates that Canadian press, whether the articles are written in French or in English, equally accentuate lurid information while claiming objectivity.

The next task is to see what happens in the translation of press articles. In Chapter 1, I suggested translation acts as a new space of contagion, that is, where an article meant for one linguistic community is displaced into another, spreading fear in the process. As we have seen with the unilingual analyses, both the French and the English articles had similar ways of conveying fear – but what happens in the translation? Are elements of fear displaced? Are there omissions? Is fear as equally generated in the target text as in the source text? The following section will attempt to answer some of these questions.

Section 5: Case Study: Avian Flu/ Translated Corpus (Canadian Press News Wire Articles from English into French)

In this section, the goal will be to assess what discursive strategies are similar or different from source text to target text. After the analysis, we can consider how translation in the press constitutes another opportunity to spread fear in the press. For the most part, Francophone readers are probably unaware that some of the news stories they read are in fact translations of English articles. This is the case with Canadian Press News wires. In a telephone conversation with M. White⁴⁴, a Canadian Press representative for the French-language service based in Montreal, I was informed that all articles concerning national

⁴⁴Information obtained 14 June 2006 during phone conversation with CP representative Patrick White (adjoint au chef du service français de la Presse Canadienne à Montréal).

Canadian news, regardless of language direction, were written at the Montreal offices of the Canadian Press. According to M. White, most national news is written in English first and then subsequently translated into French – which means that if a French-Canadian is reading a CP story in French, it is very likely that it was initially written in English. Interestingly, though CP prides itself on a bilingual service, there are no professional translators *per se* involved in the translation process. All translation activity is done by bilingual reporters and journalists who work at CP's Montreal French-language service. Furthermore, the translation process cannot significantly alter the content of the initial article; since news wires are copyrighted material, only cropping, shortening and summarizing are permitted.

Bearing all this in mind, I chose to analyze the 9 French versions of the English articles analyzed in Section 4. The purpose of this section is not to place a value judgment on the quality of the translation itself, but rather to investigate what happens to the source text through translation and how it factors into the dissemination of fear.

2.9 The Avian Flu in Translation

There is no doubt that translation is an omnipresent occurrence in the press; after all, global events do not all take place in the same country nor are they reported in the same language. Therefore, translation can be seen as a means to spread information across linguistic and cultural borders. In Western society, there is an insatiable desire for information and news. From this point of view, translation can be seen positively: it helps further distribute news from abroad and keeps us informed. However, in the case of sensationalist fear-based articles, can translation really be viewed as something positive? Does translation not act as a cog in the machine of the press to mass-distribute feelings of anxiety and uncertainty?

In all 9 target articles, most of the discursive elements that contributed to fear in the source articles could be located. This includes the use of headlines to frame the avian flu as an impending threat that could have severe repercussions. Table 2.8 is comprised of the translated versions of the headlines featured in Table 2.4.

TABLE 2.8
ISOTOPY OF TRANSLATED HEADLINES FEATURING THE AVIAN FLU
FROM JANUARY 2004- APRIL 2006

January 2004-December 2004	January 2005-December 2005	January 2006-April 2006
-Deux ou trois ans pour venir à bout de la grippe aviaire (10 Feb. 2004 – Le Soleil)	-Le virus de la grippe aviaire : une possible arme terroriste (9 Mar. 2005 – Le Droit)	-Grippe aviaire : une pandémie réduirait la croissance du PIB mondial (14 Mar. 2006 – Le Droit)
-Ottawa veut des lots d’essai du vaccin contre la grippe aviaire (11 Nov. 2004 – Le Droit)	-La grippe aviaire est en pleine mutation biologique (2 May 2005 – Le Droit)	-Grippe aviaire : Des experts craignent d’avoir été mal compris (20 Mar. 2006 – Le Soleil)
	-La grippe aviaire en pleine mutation (2 May 2005 – La Presse)	-Grippe aviaire : Gare aux faux remèdes (29 Mar. 2006 – Le Soleil)
	-La grippe aviaire est en pleine mutation biologique, selon les experts (2 May 2005 – Le Soleil)	
	-Une pandémie de grippe aurait un impact comparable à la Crise de 1929 (17 Aug. 2005 – Le Soleil & Le Droit)	
	-La peur fait tripler les ventes d’antiviral (22 Aug. 2005 – Le Soleil)	
	-Les ventes d’un antiviral augmentent (22 Aug. 2005 – La Presse)	

Just as the English headlines, the French translations warn readers that the avian flu is a current threat. Interestingly, the translated versions are published a day after the source versions, yet the temporal space remains the same: the present tense dominates (ex: veut, est, fait, augmentent, craignent). Therefore, even if the chronological time changes from source to target, the temporal framing remains the same. Also, since there is no indication of

translation, and the present tense is used, the events seem to take place in the target reader's present even though for the source text audience, the events happened a day before.

Additionally, I noted that for some English articles there was more than one translated version, that is, more than one French daily chose to print the CP news wire. A particularly interesting example is that of the translation of the headline, "Experts worry changes mean avian flu becoming better at infecting people (1 May 2005)", because three versions were available. From translation to translation, we can see an increase in the elements of fear: the first headline simply states "La grippe aviaire en pleine mutation" where "en pleine" is the focus element of fear (end focus); the second version "La grippe aviaire en pleine mutation biologique" adds the dimension of science, which as we have seen, acts as a voice of credibility legitimizing the fact that the avian flu is "truly" undergoing changes; finally, the third version, most resembling the English version, goes even further "La grippe aviaire est en pleine mutation biologique, selon les experts". In the final example, additional temporal information is given with the verb "est" (implying that the mutation is happening in the reader's *now*) as well as the polyvalent term "experts". Even though the "experts" are not named, the general term acts as one more legitimizing factor to seal the veracity of the statement in the reader's mind. All three headlines incite fear, however, the third uses all the elements the English set forth. In sum, despite some cropping of information in the headlines, fear-based discursive elements can still be found, illustrating that indeed, translation disseminates the framing of the avian flu as an issue of concern for the general populace.

Furthermore, the translation of the verbs in the body of the article correlates with the findings from the previous two analyses. In the French corpus, it was concluded that the use of shifters (like the adverb "maintenant" for example), the conditional tense and the present tense functioned as a network to frame the temporal space of the avian flu in the reader's

now. In English, this was mainly done with the use of the present tense as well as with modals. The translated articles followed this trend: English present tense was translated with French present tense; English modals were translated using the French present conditional.

Also found in the translated versions was recourse to experts of the medical community. However, here we can note a small difference – in the unilingual *Le Soleil* corpus, the experts cited were often based in Québec, making it possible for the Québécois reader to perhaps increasingly identify with the content due to the localization of the expertise. In CP news wires, most of the experts cited were either national experts or international experts as opposed to provincial experts, and as such, the “local effect” was not as striking. In turn, this may be why the translation versions often omitted citing the names of these experts⁴⁵ - the experts did not “speak” to the target audience. From the point of view of translation, omitting to mention the international and national experts’ names could be seen as adaptation in relation to the needs of the target audience (a perfectly acceptable *skopos*). However, from a critical point of view, omitting these names also prevents the target readers from having access to all of the information, and as such, can be seen as a form of censorship. If the goal of journalism is to provide readers with the most information possible, cropping and summarizing mediates the information and alters the “full” picture; disproving yet again the myth of objectivity of both translation and the press.

Moreover, omitting quotes coming from experts can also contribute to changing the tone of an article through translation. In some cases, cutting out quotes renders the target text less sensationalistic. For example, in a CP article written on November 10th, 2004, “*Public health agency wants to commission vaccine trial for H5N1 avian flu*”, one quote that was not included in the target text (“*Ottawa veut des lots d’essai du vaccin contre la grippe aviaire*”,

⁴⁵ This could also be due to formatting and the space allocated to the CP news wires in Québec dailies.

November 11th, 2004) was: “What we might face is a gigantic catastrophe”. The omission of this quote tones down the target version of the article. However, there are instances in the corpus where cutting out quotes gives less information to the target audience, much like the omission of expert credentials mentioned earlier. For instance, in the same article, several quotes in the source version provided valuable background information explaining why the Public health agency wished to commission vaccine trials. Unfortunately, in the translation process, this information was lost.

In the analysis, I also came across instances of semantic increase from source to target. Though the examples are relatively few, they nonetheless demonstrate that translation can alter the way reality is perceived. I am not suggesting that this constitutes a *bad* translation, but rather that such differences from source to target can be significant in the way different cultural groups understand and conceptualize the same event. In an article published on March 8th, 2005, “*Military intelligence warns that avian flu could be used as weapon*”, the English version reads: “If you want to see **chaos and mayhem**⁴⁶ and you’re not concerned about the backlash, then you just have to get to the biology”. In the French version, printed on March 9th, 2005, in *Le Devoir*, there is a slight shift in meaning: “Si votre objectif **est de créer le chaos et la mort**⁴⁷, et que vous n’avez pas peur vous-même des conséquences, alors il vous faudra fabriquer le virus en laboratoire”. The first notable shift occurs from “mayhem” to “mort” – the denotative meanings of “mayhem” and “mort” are different. There is no suggestion in the English version that “mayhem” is connoted with the notion of death. Yet, the target text uses the word “mort”, which combined with “chaos” plays on not only the fear of the unknown (chaos) but also on the fear of death. This semantic increase is

⁴⁶ My emphasis.

⁴⁷ My emphasis.

significant because the source and target readerships are not presented with the same information concerning the same event. Evidently, this is not to say that that word for word translation is necessarily the solution, but journalists (and journalists acting as translators) should be attentive to such increases as they can affect the target readership. Francophone readers may be more fearful because “mort” implies a much more concrete picture than the more semantically ambiguous “mayhem”.

Lastly, the isotopies of crisis remained much the same from English to French. The English articles used the comparisons of terrorism and economic crisis, as did the French translations.

2.10 Translating Fear-based rhetoric – Translators be vigilant.

Initially, I thought translation would alter the strategies used to incite fear – however, since both French and English-Canadian press appear to use the same strategies, it is logical that they remain somewhat similar even through the process of translation. Nonetheless, translation still multiplies the number of articles discussing the avian flu, and as such, may contribute to the dissemination of fear among the general populace.

Though it is true that both English and French press communities individually reported the avian flu, translation played the role of relay between them. Without translation, the Francophone communities in Québec (and those outside of Québec who read *Le Soleil*, *Le Devoir* and *Le Droit*) may not have had access to all of the information collected by the English reporters of Canadian Press, and vice versa; the English dailies may not have had all the information collected by Québec reporters. Informing the masses is a commendable objective, and from this standpoint, translation becomes vital for the press. The problem arises however when translation may contribute to the propagation of certain world-views

and the instigation of certain emotions that might not necessarily be positive from a social point of view.

For example, in the case of the avian flu, the translation of the article “Military intelligence warns that avian flu could be used as weapon: report (March 8th, 2005)” into “Le virus de la grippe aviaire: une possible arme terroriste (March 9th, 2005)” demonstrates one instance of further dissemination of fear. As we saw with the French unilingual corpus, *Le Soleil* did have a tendency of creating isotopies that hinted about the potential for the avian flu to be a weapon of terrorism (see Table 2.3). However, what the translation of the English news wire did was provide a full-length article discussing the association – we see here a departure from *Le Soleil*’s more subtle isotopies to CP’s more overt use of sensationalist headlines. As we have seen earlier on, the more often certain associations are repeated the more we are likely to fear them – thus, the more there are articles solidifying the correlation between terrorism and disease (like in the case of the H5N1 virus), the more people have difficulty disassociating them. Translation, because it multiplies the occurrences of any given information in the press, has the potential to cement certain discourses on a global scale: if only one linguistic community has access to avian flu articles, then the ideas are somewhat limited to that space and time. However, translation has allowed the avian flu to gain attention worldwide; in the Canadian context from coast to coast the avian flu was discussed in media outlets and translation ensured that both official linguistic Canadian communities had access to avian flu coverage. Unfortunately, as my case study of both unilingual corpora demonstrated, the risk of the virus often seemed blown out of proportion by the use of specific rhetorical devices (for instance, the use of power words as seen in Table 2.2 and the various isotopies relating the avian flu to death and terrorism) to guide the presumed news reader’s interpretation .

Although my corpus looked at disease, it would not be far-fetched to think of other instances in which translation could contribute to certain negative world views. In the case of wars for example, if the bias in an article is translated, then that “lopsidedness” not only exists in one space, but two (i.e. the space of the source readers and the space of the target readers). Readers of those target texts will share the bias which can create unnecessary partisanship. Translation must act as a space of reflection; we demand responsible press, should we not, especially as translators, demand the same for our profession?

In the corpus of translated articles, I briefly mentioned that there were a few semantic increases in the French versions of CP news wires (see Section 5). These increases are particularly important to mention because they demonstrate translation’s ability to mutate information, even if the changes are very subtle. Subtle changes can contribute to a completely different interpretation of a situation, even if they are not intended to do so or even if they are somewhat unconscious on the part of the translator⁴⁸. Let us reconsider the example of “chaos and mayhem” translated into “le chaos et la mort”; in the context of the avian flu this could lead francophone readers to be more fearful; “mort” being much more semantically loaded than “mayhem”. But let us think outside of the example of the avian flu; if the corpus had focused on articles relating to an international conflict and a headline had read “Government X is contributing to chaos and mayhem” and the translation “Le Gouvernement X crée le chaos et la mort”, what would be the consequences? The perception of the target audience would be entirely different than that of the source. At a time where our global village is suffering from cultural misunderstandings, it is imperative that translation

⁴⁸ We must be reminded here that in the chain of communication, the translator does at some point act as a reader/addressee and consequently, like any other reader, will interpret information according to his or her understanding and conceptualization of the world. For some translators, certain information can be more challenging to translate without a bias – we can think here of sensitive issues such as political issues, pro-choice debates, religious conflicts, etc. Chapter 3 will expand on the concept of translator as independent and subjective social agent.

attempt to provide understanding – not additional barriers creating fear and judgment; in Mona Baker’s *Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*, under the section “Ideology and Translation” by Peter Fawcett: “since we are always required when translating to “take a position” relative to other cultures and languages, we must as well remain ever vigilant as to the nature of the position assumed (1998:107).”

If translation can be seen as a cultural bridge potentially able to link different and seemingly disparate cultural and linguistic communities, then translators could be seen as experts in communication. If translators feel that the source text may create more fear in the target culture, there should be leeway on the press’s behalf for adaptation. When CP and its copyright rules force translators to stay as close as possible to the source text, then Francophone communities are forced to receive, and subsequently perceive and interpret information in the same fashion as Anglophone communities⁴⁹. However, the reality is that the perception of certain social realities can be different between two cultural communities and translation that abides by copyright law may not necessarily lead to better understanding of these realities. Granted, Canadians, regardless of whether they speak French or English, generally tend to have similar reporting strategies (as the unilingual corpora demonstrated), but once more, we can fit the framework onto other linguistic spaces. We could consider press translation in the context of two languages that are completely different⁵⁰ and examine how a source-oriented translation strategy could breed fear and misunderstanding, or even completely different interpretations. For example, as I tried to exemplify in Chapter 1, fear of disease and death is generally specific to Western culture – but this may not necessarily be the case in other areas of the world where death is seen entirely differently. Therefore, if

⁴⁹ Which supposes two power-relations: the power of the press over translation and the power of one linguistic community over another.

⁵⁰ Including perhaps languages that conceptualize the world differently.

through a translated article the press tries to instigate fear using death as a referent, it may not be effective in the context of a culture that perceives death in a more positive light⁵¹.

Regrettably, translation has so often been seen as secondary and forcibly obedient to a source text that very few translators outside of the realm of academia have attempted to detach from translation the discourse of objectivity and the subordination to “an original” (translation is necessarily transformation – it is *not* meant to be for the same audience). That translation can promote certain ideologies has been discussed by other scholars, but there is still fertile grounds for the study of how translation, specifically in the context of the press, can further the dissemination of *emotions*. I contend that it would be of interest for our practice to further investigate the dissemination of fear, especially post September 11th, 2001.

This leads me to the following chapter in which I will attempt to demystify some of the discourses that both translation and the press share, while looking at some tentative frameworks to liberate and engage translators in their practice.

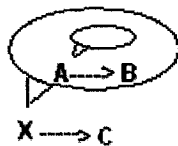
⁵¹ Of course this brings up the question of ethics: is it ethical to translate fear? Should translators adapt a text in order to attempt to instigate fear? These questions will be considered in Chapter 3, in the section concerning Ethics.

CHAPTER 3 – The Translator as *Rapporteur*, Reporter and Mediator: Translation and the Myth of Objectivity; Translation as Space of Contagion; Translation Visibility; and A Question of Ethics

Chapter 2 sought to explain how the objectivity of the press is merely superficial; at a deeper level, absolute objectivity can only be an ideal. Through the selection of the news stories to be published, and their subsequent framing via various discursive strategies, it is possible to see that the press acts as an important vehicle of ideas and emotions. The avian flu case study illustrated that fear is indeed constructed and disseminated via the Canadian press. Translation, though it is rarely visible or given its due, contributes largely to the functioning of the press machine. It is a process which allows for the further distribution of information to additional audiences in other cultural and linguistic spaces. However, translation is rarely if ever included in most of the books on media I have consulted for this project, despite its significant contribution to the propagation of information. Furthermore, Canadian Press seems to believe that translation that abides by copyright law implies absolutely no significant changes from the source text to the target text. In fact even within translation practice, this view of translation is supported: provincial codes of ethics state that the translator should always be faithful to the source text and. Therefore, I think it may be worthwhile to denounce the myth of objectivity in translation, if only for non-translational agents who may still believe translation can be entirely objective or “faithful” if it abides by copyright law. This chapter will look to expose the ways in which translation, like the press is subjective and transformational. Also, I will expand on the concept of translation as a contagious space as well as how the translator’s visibility can assist in striving towards an ethical translation strategy.

3.1 Translation and the Press: Sharing the Myth of Objectivity

Translation and the press share a common discourse: the myth of objectivity. As we saw in the section entitled The Fourth Estate, it is impossible to mirror events with absolute objectivity; the proof is that no news story covering the same event is ever exactly the same. Furthermore, the journalist may be biased and that bias may be subversively present in the news story be it through the use of various discursive strategies that frame the reader's perception and understanding of an event (as seen in the avian flu case study, headlines, isotopies, verbs and adverbs contribute to the framing of news events); after all, the article is the result of the journalist's understanding of the event, so how could this not be a form of subjectivity? Also, reporting is a form of "re-telling" which recalls the functionalist model proposed by Brian Mossop⁵²:



Though this diagram was initially proposed in the context of translation theory, it nonetheless can be used to schematically represent reporting. Reporting is a form of intralingual translation. Using this diagram in the context of the press, $A \rightarrow B$ symbolizes the current event, whereas $X \rightarrow C$ symbolizes the reporter's (X) "re-telling" of the event to the supposed reader (C) of the newspaper, article or news wire. This diagram demonstrates that what happened between $A \rightarrow B$ is re-interpreted and re-formulated by X for X's presumed C, and consequently cannot be an *exact* replicate due to the very act of re-mediation. For instance, X may choose to add details or omit them based on C's needs. Contextualizing this example: supposing $X = \textit{Le Soleil}$ and $C = \textit{Le Soleil's}$ readers; *Le Soleil* may have chosen to cut certain

⁵² Mossop, Brian. *The Translator as Rapporteur: A concept for training and self-improvement*. META, vol. 28, n. 3, Sept. 1983, p. 244-260.

elements of the CP news wire because it deemed the information unnecessary for its readers. Though this is a reasonable functional communicative approach, it nonetheless dismantles the hypothesis of objectivity in the press.

Similarly to the press, translation shares the discourse of objectivity. The concepts of “fidelity”, “transparence” and “invisibility of the translator” are often key words in this view of translation. But translation, like the news article, is a re-mediation of information and as such cannot be absolutely objective. Barbara Folkart in *Le Conflit des Énonciations* elaborates:

“À l’intérieur du discours de la traduction, tout un nexus d’idées reçues s’est noué autour de la notion de fidélité, notion pré-scientifique aux versants idéologique, axiologique, voire politique et émotif, autant que conceptuel, idéalisation aussi peu valable que les notions de reproduisibilité et de réversibilité absolues. [...] Ainsi conçue, la notion de fidélité entraîne celles d’objectivité, de transparence et d’absolu. [...] L’«objectivité» de l’opération traduisante entraîne l’«objectivité» du traducteur, actant dépourvu d’épaisseur existentielle et qui n’intervient dans son faire que comme pure compétence désincarnée [cependant] la fidélité, la transparence, l’objectivité sont des idéalizations [...] Le nexus de mythes qui est charrié par le discours de la traduction – en particulier, le mythe de l’objectivité – est battu en brèche par le constat fondamental, que toute saisie d’un objet par un sujet constitue en fait une interaction de ce sujet avec cet objet (1991, 366-376)”.

In other words, discourse on translation often suggests that the translator functions like an automaton and that “good” translation is self-effaced. But the reality is that translators, like reporters, have their own understanding of the world and their own interpretations of the

texts they translate. Just as multiple news stories of the same real-world event are never entirely identical, no two translations of the same text are exactly alike.

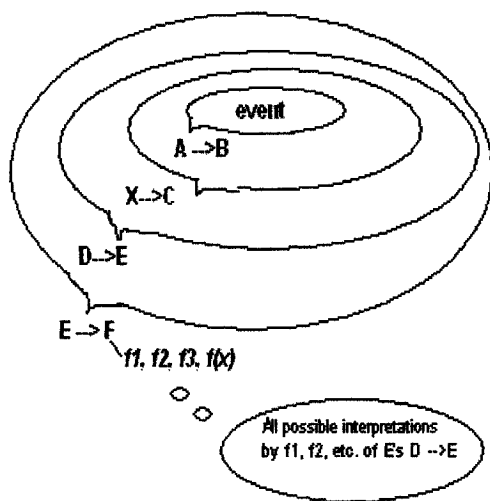
The myth of objectivity also factors in the concept of “originality”. The general assumption is that the closer something is to its origin, the more likely it is to be a “faithful” representation. Likewise, reporting is an activity taking place close to the point of origin (the event), consequently the news story that results from the reporting takes on the status of “original work”, which in turn is copyrighted and protected by law, simultaneously associating the reporter with the status of “author”. But from a critical standpoint, how can the news story truly function as any more original than its translation⁵³? If anything, it is simply a “translation” of the actual, i.e. tangible or concrete, real-world event. And even at that, the real-world event is based on the reporter’s interpretation. As Foucault states: “the result is that true originality as a kind of absolute term becomes an impossibility (Said, 1983: 134)”. Therefore, if “true originality” is impossible, and “objectivity” only an ideal, never fully achievable, then why is translation in the press still subordinated by copyright law to being faithful to the source text? After all, the source author-journalist is no less translator than the translator (or journalist-translator) himself. There is no less interpretation and mediation on the part of the reporter than the translator. The problem also lies in the discourse held on various types of writing: journalism can be seen as active, as it implies *doing, seeing*, etc; translation, since it relies on something written *a priori*, becomes passive and secondary⁵⁴. Yet, there remains the fundamental fact that it is often only through translation (and translated-material) that many people located throughout the globe receive

⁵³ Just because translation may seem further removed from the “center” does not mean that it does not eventually become “center” through the process of mediation, as the following paragraphs will attempt to demonstrate. (See diagram p.5)

⁵⁴ Based on SAID, Edward W. *The World, the Text, and the Critic*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1983. (p. 127-128)

their news – and as such, translation, at some point on the temporal axis, becomes “original” as well, if only in the eyes of the readers of the target text. Any writing is, if one takes a theoretical standpoint, the “orderly translation of innumerable forces into decipherable script (Said, 1983: 129)”⁵⁵.

Returning to the initial issue, the discourse of objectivity, my case study demonstrated that translation occurred twice, which would imply two additional levels of mediation, giving more weight to the argument of translation as a subjective activity though wearing the veil of objectivity. The first instance of translation happens in Montreal, when the CP journalist-translator translates the English source text into the French target text; the second instance occurs when the Québec dailies (such as *Le Soleil*, *Le Droit* and *Le Devoir*) crop, summarize and shorten the translated news wires (which acts more as an instance of intralingual translation than interlingual translation). Schematically this can be represented by:



A & B = people involved directly in event
(e.g. virologist studying H5N1)

X = CP Reporter and writer of news wire (e.g. reports that virologist studied H5N1; i.e. $A \rightarrow B$ for C)

C = presumed source audience (English)

D = CP Journalist as Translator (translates $X \rightarrow C$ for E)

E = Québec Dailies, *Le Soleil*, *Le Devoir*, *Le Droit* (who receive full translation of news wire)

E = Québec Dailies' target text (E reports $D \rightarrow E$ for F)

F ($f1, f2, f3, f(x)$) = Reader “fills in gaps” and makes his or her own “inferences and assumptions” about the text

F = Presumed target audience (French)

⁵⁵ I could even go further in saying that for there to be writing, there also needs to be reading of that writing. Insofar as reporting is concerned, journalist-translators also, at some point, act as readers. Therefore, there is necessarily dynamism between journalist and translator, even though it is seldom acknowledged.

This diagram illustrates the three levels of mediation before the current event “reaches” the target audience (F) and the individual target readers ($f1, f2, f3, f(x)$). The first level of mediation occurs when the CP reporter (X) writes the news wire for the presumed English-language audience (C). What C reads and perceives is X’s interpretation and understanding of the event. The English-language source text (news wire) is then translated by a Canadian Press journalist in Montreal in charge of translation (D). Once more, mediation occurs: D’s translation is his or her understanding and perception of X’s source text. D’s translation is then sent off to various Québec dailies (E) who summarize, crop or cut parts of the translated news wire and then publish that version for their presumed audience (F). E’s subjectivity occurs in the selection of information to publish: it is the Québec dailies who judge which elements are most pertinent and relevant to relay to their audience. Consequently, the francophone audience is only given a fraction of the first instance of the article (X’s version). Lastly, it is undeniable that within (F) as target audience, each individual (f) as target reader will have their own interpretation of (E)’s (D) $\rightarrow$ (E); i.e. with their individual background, knowledge of other texts and textual conventions, they are able to assume, infer, and suspect meaning (they “fill in the gaps”⁵⁶). Once the article is in (f)’s hands and subjected to (f)’s interpretation, not only is the center of mediation displaced, but we also witness a simultaneous “death of the journalist” and “death of the translator” since both these agents no longer have any impact on (f)’s interpretation.

⁵⁶ Reader-Response Theory: “The central tenets of all varieties of reader-response theory are that meaning is not something that is contained within a text or that can be extracted from it, and that what a text does is more important than what it is. Far from being pre-given, meaning is produced by readers working in conjunction with the structures of the text, and in accordance with the reading strategies and interpretive conventions that bind readers together into interpretive communities [...] (Macey, 2000: 324).”

In my case study, I demonstrated that the discursive elements that managed to make it from X's version to the version received by F were those that contributed to the construction of the avian flu as worst-case scenario and threat, which in turn may lead to fear. Thus, the hypothesis of translation as an objective space in the press begins to crumble, even if the translation abides by copyright.

In fact, the very act of cropping, summarizing and cutting, which acts as a selection of information, plays a chief role in disproving the hypothesis of objectivity in translation. Selection, as we have seen in Chapter 2, is hardly an innocent act⁵⁷; the selection of news wires to be translated may be motivated by a variety of factors such as appealing to specific readers, promoting ideologies, stirring emotions (notably fear in the case of the avian flu), and ensuring market profitability⁵⁸. The Québec dailies chose to retain what they considered the most significant information from the translation provided by the Canadian Press. But what constitutes the most significant information? I maintain that in the case of the avian flu articles, the information that was retained was what had the most shock-value.

3.2 Functional Approaches in Translation: Is the communicative goal of translation in the press a means to disseminate fear?

Translation is undeniably communication – it is not a static act void of human interaction and subjectivity, however it is only in recent history that translation has been perceived as such. Prior to the 20th century, translation theory was mainly concerned with the

⁵⁷ Lawrence Venuti in "*Translation, Community, Utopia*" (Venuti, Ed., 2004: 482-502) echoes this in stating that the selection of a text to be translated is never innocent: "[...] the very choice of a text for translation, [is] always a very selective, densely motivated choice (482)".

⁵⁸ Certain articles may be published simply because they help benefit advertisers who financially assist the newspaper; in *Inventer l'actualité*: "le système d'information reste très vulnérable, car il peut s'auto-intoxiquer facilement, et fragile face aux pressions de lobbies divers (alimentaires, politiques, pharmaceutiques) produisant des fausses nouvelles à leur avantage, inventant de l'actualité (2004:132):"

debate of literal versus “free” translation⁵⁹; nevertheless, the dominant translational ideal was a pledge of “fidelity” to the source text in order to transport its “truth” and “spirit” (Munday, 2001: 18). The mid-20th century marked a shift in translation theory: theorists turned away from the circular discussions of “literal versus free translation” and tended to more systematic approaches to translation analysis. The emphasis was now on the concepts of “meaning” and “equivalence” (with theorists like Roman Jakobson and Eugene Nida). Jakobson suggested that the problem of meaning and equivalence was embedded in the structural and terminological layers of language as opposed to the inability of one language to express a message that had been written in another language *a priori*. Nida’s approach leaned towards a scientific model of translation. He suggested that words acquired meaning based on the context in which they were found and that the response to these words will vary according to culture. He also put forth the concepts of “formal and dynamic equivalence”: “formal equivalence” implies translation that is more ST-oriented, which is to say the elements in the target text should be as close as possible to those found in the source text; “dynamic equivalence” on the other hand focuses on the receptor’s needs and relies on adaptation to tailor the translation accordingly (Munday 2001, 35-42 and Brisset 2004⁶⁰). Though this approach had merit because it finally led to the departure of the “literal versus free” debate, it still focused predominantly on linguistic aspects, obscuring other key agents involved in the translation process. Other linguistic approaches blossomed during the mid 20th century, such as Vinay and Darbelnet’s comparative stylistics, but once more, this type of taxonomy was limited: it seemed to suggest a recipe book for translators, whereas it is known that there is never a “perfect” and “absolute” translation for any one particular source

⁵⁹ Literality was preferred to “free” or liberal

⁶⁰ BRISSET, Annie (2004), *TRA 4975: Théories de la Traduction (Fall 2004 Seminar)*, Ottawa: University of Ottawa .

text. In the 1970s and 1980s, translation theory shifted towards functionalist and communicative approaches. Essentially, these approaches sought to depart from the static linguistic approaches towards a more encompassing view of translational agents such as the translator as independent and subjective entity, the source and the target culture as well as the goal of the translation. The later 1970s also marked the beginning of an interest in discourse analysis, which ties in with the functionalist and communicative models of translation in that “the organization of the text above sentence level is investigated (Munday, 2001:89)”. This section will apply functionalist translation theory to the avian flu case study in order to investigate translation’s role in the press. The value of using a functionalist framework is that unlike other theories of translation, it does not seek to determine a universal “how-to-translate”. Instead, it considers all the agents involved in the translation process⁶¹ and seeks to look at the function of the translation in order to explain and establish what translation strategies to use. As such, this theory avoids placing value judgements on translations and attempts to explain translation output in terms of the final function. Functionalism in translation, unlike some of the aforementioned theories, goes beyond limiting translation to a source and a target text (and the discourses of “source-oriented”, “target-oriented” as the only two viable translation options⁶²).

The press’s role, as we have seen in Chapter 2, is to inform the public and is one of the main components of a democratic society. Yet, in the case of the avian flu, both the French and English-Canadian press went well beyond their informational calling and discursively created a worst-case scenario as my analysis of the avian flu in the unilingual

⁶¹ The translator, the client, the presumed audience/reader, the communicative goal of the translation, cultural issues, dominant ideologies at the time the of the translation, etc.

⁶² Indeed, as we shall see further on with *Skopostheorie*, a translation could very well be a blend of both source-oriented and target-oriented approaches if that is the optimal solution for a given project.

analyses exemplified. There is a feeling then that the goal of the press is not only meant to inform but to act as a means of control over our emotions. If one of the goals of the press is to stir public sentiments, does translation share this goal? Is the purpose of translation to inform or to scare? Or, perhaps, both?

*Skopostheorie*⁶³, proposed by Hans J. Vermeer, is one of the predominant functionalist models to emerge out of the 1970s. “Skopos theory focuses above all on the purpose of the translation, which determines the translation methods and strategies that are to be employed in order to produce a functionally adequate result (Munday, 2001: 79)”. My analysis of the translated CP news wires revealed that most of the translations followed the source texts very closely and this is most likely because the journalist-translator felt an obligation to remain “faithful” to the source text since news stories are deemed “objective”- i.e. they offer only factual, verifiable information⁶⁴. If the journalist-translator⁶⁵ had altered significantly any of the information found in the source text, he or she could have been accused of altering supposedly “objective” information that was witnessed first-hand by the author of the article⁶⁶. The journalist-translator could argue that by offering a translation resembling as closely as possible to the source text, he or she is providing the target culture with the same information as found in the source article; this would be the journalist-translator’s *skopos*, or in other words, parameters of the translation project. Although

⁶³ “*Skopos* is the Greek word for ‘aim’ or ‘purpose’ (Munday, 2001:78)”.

⁶⁴ Furthermore, CP representative Mr. White stressed the fact that all newswires written by CP are protected by copyright law, which means that no significant altering of information can be done in the translation process. Essentially, the translator’s *skopos* is always pre-determined because of copyright law. Copyright also imposes a hierarchy between journalist and translator, where only the journalist is seen as author.

⁶⁵ I have chosen to use the term “journalist-translator” to describe the journalist in charge of translating CP news wires. M. White specified that the individuals in charge of translation are above all journalists, translators second.

⁶⁶ Once more we can notice a parallel between the discourse of the press and the discourse of translation: in my research, it appears as though the journalist-translator is subordinated to the journalist of the initial occurrence of the news wire – just like in translation, the translator is often subordinated to the author of a work.

informing the target culture reader is a legitimate and justifiable *skopos*⁶⁷, I contend that this poses two problems. The first is that the translator and translation are made invisible for the sake of “objectivity”⁶⁸⁶⁹. The second is that there seems to be no critical reflection on the part of the journalist-translator – he or she does not reflect on the consequences the translation can have and how it can contribute to the propagation of certain ideologies and emotions notably fear in the case of the avian flu virus. This gives the sense that translation is an almost mindless activity. Since translation is a space of transformation, it has the potential to become a space of reflection – a space where the translator could critically reflect on his or her work. Though *skopostheorie* offers a theoretical framework that seeks to justify translations as opposed to judging them, which in turn could empower the translator, it unfortunately has the shortcoming of also justifying the very discourses that lead to translation’s invisibility (i.e. “transparent translation is acceptable in the case of the press because the end goal is to inform”); a sort of translational “catch-22”. To the first two problems, another one is added. Journalists, as well as journalist-translators, are subordinated to constraints that do not necessarily allow for critical intervention: copyright, biases of the newspaper, deadlines⁷⁰, supposed audience, etc. These elements have no choice but to be part of the *skopos*. The unfortunate reality is that though *skopostheorie* tries to portray the

⁶⁷ Vermeer in “*Skopos and Commission*” (Venuti, Ed., 2004): “What the *skopos* states is that one must translate, consciously and consistently, in accordance with some principle respecting the target text. The theory does not state what the principle is: this must be decided separately in each specific case. An optimally faithful rendering of a source text, in the sense of a trans-coding, is thus one perfectly legitimate goal. The *skopos* theory merely states that the translator should be aware that *some* goal exists, and that any given goal is only one among many possible ones (234)” – thus if the journalist-translation *acknowledges* that “relaying” (or, in the terms of Vermeer “trans-coding”) information is the goal of the translation, and applies literal strategies in order to achieve this goal, he or she is justified.

⁶⁸ Echoing Antoine Berman and Lawrence Venuti, translation is second-order to the original.

⁶⁹ As we have seen, even this “objectivity” is only an ideal.

⁷⁰ Source-oriented translation in the press may also be explained by deadlines. Because journalists and translators have to produce in fast-paced environments, translations that follow their source texts closely provide a direct route to target texts – however, this type of “direct approach” to translation may unfortunately sacrifice textual quality and realistically suppress any time for critical reflection.

translator as an expert of communication, translators are still obligated to follow the guidelines and regulations of their work environment.

But another dimension must be considered: the journalist-translator from CP is not the final person to alter the target text. Québec dailies cut and summarize the news wires and the CP journalist-translator cannot predict what those elements will be. So although the goal of CP's journalist-translator is to render with exactitude what was reported in the source text, this can never be fully achieved as there inevitably will be an additional level of mediation. Interestingly, the cutting and summarizing done by the Francophone dailies is more target culture oriented because the goal (*skopos*) appears to be to keep only the information most relevant for Francophone readers as opposed to focusing on the source text in its entirety (and relevance cannot equate to objectivity since it implies selection). Initially, this could be seen as a commendable goal, but this can be seen as a form of textual manipulation and if Francophone readers were actually aware that they were dealing with a translated text (as most are not) perhaps they would wish to have all the information that was made available in the English source text.

To summarize: the *skopos* of the journalist-translator is to offer the information of the source text for the target audience⁷¹, the method employed is a source-oriented translation without any explicit intervention on the translator's behalf; the translator acts as an informative relay. As such, all the discursive elements contributing to the perception of the avian flu as threat are kept intact from source to target. However, a second *skopos* enters the equation: that of the Québec dailies. The aim in this case is to summarize and cut information

⁷¹ We could have used Christian Nord's term "instrumental translation" to describe this particular *skopos*. Even though she classifies literal translations in the "documentary translation" category (translations that act as "document[s] of a source culture communication between the author and the ST recipient) (Munday 2001, 81)", the translation of press articles acts more as a new communicative instance in a target culture where the recipient is not aware "of reading a text which, in a different form, was used before in a different communicative situation (Munday, 2001: 82)".

so as to cater to their demographic. Though this entire *skopos* is justifiable (despite some shortcomings), the translations of the avian flu news wires still contribute to the overall discourse of fear that permeates the press.

But the translation of Canadian Press news wires is a very particular type of project in the sense that the translator is not only translator but journalist as well. As such, the individuals in charge of translating news wires will most likely give predominance to relaying information than applying a critical translation strategy that could alter the source text.

In an ideal situation, the act of translation could provide an opportunity for the journalist-translator to be critical and question the repercussions involved in translating a press article, especially one involving the dissemination of fear which contributes to a society constantly on edge. In such a situation, the *skopos* could take into consideration additional parameters such as ethical parameters (for instance, is it ethical to “translate” fear when the journalist-translator knows that the initial journalist used framing techniques?). A critical stance could also allow the journalist-translator to reflect on translation as a contagious space. Knowing that translation contributes to the dissemination of certain world-views from one cultural space to another, translators may begin viewing their role differently: translation then becomes more than a relay of information that blindly follows the source text; instead it could become a space where ideologies are questioned before being disseminated.

3.3 Translation as a Space of Contagion

In the context of this project, I want to demonstrate that translation contributes to the dissemination of fear of the avian flu⁷². It is true that both the French-Canadian and English-Canadian press separately covered the avian flu, however translation increased its coverage in that articles that were initially written in English, and most likely written with an English-Canadian audience in mind, managed to reach French-Canadian audiences as well.

In Chapter 1, I briefly touched on the concept of the press acting as a “contagious space”, and the potential for translation to also be viewed in this light. The press acts as a contagious space because it has potential to relay information easily and effectively to the general populace – we can think of all the conversations instigated by the reading of the day’s news as well as the saturation of news in our daily lives. But what is all too often ignored is the extent to which translation plays a crucial role in the emotional epidemic created by the press.

In the case of the avian flu, translation occurs in every step of the reporting process. For instance, we know the avian flu first occurred in Asia and slowly made its way to the West. Thus, when the first instance of the H5N1 virus was reported, it was most likely in an Asian language – in order to acquire information, the Asian report must have been translated for other international reporters. This can be seen as the first incidence of “contagion” (as well as another point of mediation). Let us suppose then that one of the international reporters was a Canadian reporter for *Canadian Press Newswire*: this reporter will write down his or her account and understanding of the Asian report in English, and this article will constitute yet another space of contagion reaching a new audience in another linguistic

⁷² The avian flu case study is essentially a pilot project – evidently, the hypothesis of translation disseminating emotions and ideologies could be elaborated on a much larger scale.

and cultural space. Due to the bilingual mandate of *Canadian Press*, the English article will be translated, so as to allow French-language dailies access to the report – once more, passing on information from one language to another. Translation is like a virus; it passes information from addresser to addressee. Also like a virus, it can “mutate”: information found in the Asian report will not necessarily be found in the English or French-Canadian translations. Conversely, in order to adapt news for a national readership, English and French-Canadian dailies and news wires may add information that was not in the Asian report (for example, quotes from local experts or the comparison to the SARS outbreak in Toronto).

However, translation does not uniquely contribute to the spreading of information. Translation is also a fertile ground for the proliferation of emotions and ideologies. Let us take Chapter 2’s case study as an example: though it is true that both English and French-Canadian dailies frame the avian flu in such a way as to suggest that it is something to fear, translated articles allow for an increase in H5N1 coverage and subsequently another occasion to attempt to incite audiences to fear – after all, the case study effectively demonstrated that the discursive strategies used to instigate fear and frame the avian flu as worst-case scenario were preserved in the translation process.

Thus far, we have concluded that translation, like the press, acts as a contagious space for the spreading of information and emotions. But translation does more than just disseminate information it also acts as a sort of validation of information. In *La Contagion des idées*, Sperber hints that the more a concept or world-view is repeated, the more it becomes accepted as “truth”. This is the case, for example, with rumors. Often rumors are speculative and unfounded, yet the more they are repeated, the more they are believed and accepted. And the more unconventional the rumor, the more likely people will be drawn to

discussing it⁷³. In the case of the avian flu, the actual extent of the threat seems to remain unknown, consequently, much of the reporting on the avian flu is estimated and approximate, much like a rumor; yet, because H5N1 articles continue to appear in newspapers on a near-daily basis⁷⁴, people may begin to forget the speculative nature of the worst-case hypotheses and accept them as a reality; “maintes rumeurs trouvent leur point de départ dans des articles de journaux (Kapferer,1990:58)”. Essentially, news articles plant the seed that the avian flu *may* be a threat, but the saturation of articles discussing this topic seem to suggest that the avian flu *is* a threat.

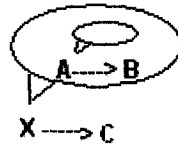
Because translation multiplies the number of articles relating to the avian flu (saturation), it contributes to the propagation of fear-based rhetoric surrounding the H5N1 virus. As demonstrated in the case study, CP news wires initially written in English were translated and then sent to Québec dailies. The Québec dailies, *Le Soleil*, *Le Devoir*, and *La Presse*, then published their edited versions, contributing to the circulation of the perception of avian flu as threat. From one instance of translation, three articles were published (English CP news wire → translation → French target text delivered to Québec dailies → *Le Soleil*, *La Presse*, *Le Devoir*); this example shows the power translation has to move information, including its transformed and mediated versions, from one space to another.

Furthermore, each time an article on the avian flu is written, or translated, and subsequently published it has the potential to spark conversation between the reader of the article and his or her peers (at which point, addressee becomes addresser). Discussion also has the potential to reframe the information: “à partir d’une nouvelle (un fait) trouvé dans le

⁷³ We are reminded here of the news story selection process: news stories are deemed newsworthy when the *unexpected* events they report have potential for *dramatization*.

⁷⁴ Based on data collected from January 2004 to April 2006 for the French and English unilingual corpora used in Chapter 2’s case study.

journal naît une discussion qui porte non sur le fait mais sur ce qu'il faut en penser (Kapferer, 1990:61)". This discussion is another instance of intralingual translation. We are again confronted with the functionalist model:



In this case, $A \rightarrow B$ represents the journalist (A) writing the article for a presumed B; B, initially addressee, transforms into X, where X is now the addresser and C the addressee. However, if the language between $A \rightarrow B$ changes from $X \rightarrow C$, that discussion would represent interlingual translation. Viewed as such, every instance of communicative contagion is a form of translation: once a person acquires knowledge and re-interprets it for others, translation occurs. This view of translation is echoed by Octavio Paz, when he states that “language in essence, is translation (Bassnett, 1980: 38)”.

Seeing the omnipresence of translation, and its potential to disseminate information and ideologies, it is impossible to ignore its power. Translation is an excellent vehicle to further distribute information to audiences that may not have had access to it in its original language and context. But with power comes responsibility; how can translators be responsible if they are not visible *a priori*?

3.4 The Invisibility of the Translator in the Press

The journalist is often regarded as the author of an article: their name is featured alongside the headline, and in some cases, even a picture is supplied. Even in the case of CP news wires, it is often possible to identify the journalist who authored the article. Unfortunately this visibility is not shared by those involved in the translation of CP news

wires despite the fact that they are the “authors” of the target version of the news wire. Some of the **target** texts in Chapter 2’s case study even give the **source** journalist’s name – once more, there is no mention of the journalist-translator or translation in general. Why is translation not mentioned in Canadian newspapers? Why does the journalist-translator, or translator, not get the same recognition as the reporter?

One hypothesis may be that news wires are copyrighted material and it is illegal to alter the information they contain – translation that seeks to “adapt” a text is then viewed as a means of altering information. Paradoxically, as we have seen in the section disproving the myth of objectivity in translation, even “faithful” or “copyright abiding” translation implies subjective mediation. However, it is my impression, based on my conversation with *Canadian Press* representative Mr. White, that translation complying with copyright is viewed as a “transparent” operation, and consequently the only viable translation method available to the journalists in charge of translating news wires⁷⁵.

In the case of the avian flu articles, the purpose of translation was not to convey the “foreign” of the English language or of English-Canadian culture to French-Canadians; it was to inform (even though informing also involved disseminating more fear-based articles on the avian flu). Consequently, trying to bring the translator to the fore by using “foreignizing” translation strategies, as Lawrence Venuti proposes in *The Scandals of Translation: Towards an Ethics of Difference*, is not necessarily the optimal solution. Also, from a journalistic point of view, giving visibility to translation in the press may lead to readers questioning their local newspapers: “if this was translated, am I, as a reader, provided

⁷⁵ This may strengthen the strategy of “trans-coding” involved with a skopos that seeks to relay information as seen in the section Functional Approaches in Translation: Is the communicative goal of translation in the press a means to disseminate fear?

with the whole story? Did the translator properly translate what was ‘seen’ by the reporter? Am I presented with all the facts?” Perhaps drawing attention to translation may not work in the newspapers favor; it may lead to more questioning and criticizing. Earlier in this chapter, I explained that translation in the press involves additional mediation. Mediation/translation works as a step further away from the point of origin (the event itself), which for the press is counter-productive since its ostensible mandate is to be as close to the origin of a current-event as possible.

But if the translation contributes to the reporting of news, which is ultimately the goal of the press, why can it not at least be mentioned by printing the translator’s name alongside the target text? As Venuti suggests, maybe this is because of the secondary role translation has always held in the minds of authors: “translation is derivative, neither self-expression nor unique: it imitates another text (1998:31)”. Translators need to begin to fight against this perception of translation, otherwise they will forever be kept invisible. Also, the concealing of translation in the press is in opposition to the idea that the press provides transparent information. Readers have a right to know that their news is re-mediated through translation; and the involvement of translators in the press deserves to be acknowledged.

Vermeer repeatedly states that translators are “experts” (in Venuti, Ed. 2004, and Munday, 1991) and that they should be seen as such. Yet, the journalists who act as translators are forced to perform their task in the confines of prescriptive norms (for instance, translation in the press *should* be literal because it *conveys* objectivity) dictated by journalistic ideals. Additionally, the expertise of formally trained translators is apparently undermined – the proof is in my case study: in the case of *Canadian Press*, formally trained

translators do not necessarily take part in the translation of news wires⁷⁶. Instead, bilingual journalists located in Montreal act as translators – and as most translators and translation bureaus will attest, bilingualism is not the only criterion necessary in order for a translator to be competent⁷⁷.

So long as translation is kept behind the scenes, it will be difficult to give it the recognition it deserves. Hopefully, as more translation studies programs emerge, formally trained translators will demand more visibility and infiltrate institutions like the press. These translators can then attempt to teach their colleagues that translation that is faithful to copyright is not the only viable *skopos*. Just because the number of words and the syntax from source-to-target differs, this does not mean that the informative nature of the text is lost in translation. Quite to the contrary, differences from source-to-target may in fact suggest a *skopos* that finally departs from the myths of objectivity of both the press and translation, encouraging a critical and accountable translation.

But before translators can hope to infiltrate other institutions and demand visibility they must first begin to change some current mentalities within the practice (such as value

⁷⁶ From my understanding of the telephone interview with CP representative Patrick White, the translators located at the Montreal office do not necessarily have to have a diploma in translation. Preference can be given to individuals who have a background in both journalism and translation but priority is always given to those with a background in journalism – once more, translation is secondary.

⁷⁷ For example, more and more employers are demanding that aspiring translators have certain credentials. In the case of Canada's Translation Bureau, most if not all of the job postings now require a B.A. in Translation (For additional information:

The Translation Bureau http://www.translationbureau.gc.ca/pwgsc_internet/fr/trav_work_e.htm
28 July 2006).

A B.A. in Translation will generally provide an overall background: practical courses, computer labs which introduce the student to translation software, access to terminology databases, translation theory courses, etc. And though bilingualism may be the general admission criteria for such a program, not all students will be able to master all aspects involved in the process of translation.

Another example would be translation jobs at the United Nations; the translation jobs at the UN require candidates to have “advanced degrees”, master a minimum of three languages, have a certain amount of experience in the field, as well as other skills such as time management, the ability to work under pressure, teamwork, etc. (More information can be found at:

United Nations (Information on job postings and employment)

https://jobs.un.org/Galaxy/Release3/vacancy/va_search_form.aspx?lang=1200 28 July 2006.)

judgments, subordination to originality and authorship, etc.). Professional translators, as well as their colleagues in scholarly institutions, must reflect more critically on the practice of translation and elevate it to a higher level than mere “communicational relaying”. Translators need to want to be visible if there is to ever be any form of recognition. “S’il s’ingénie à traduire une oeuvre en assumant sa voix et son écriture, le traducteur se rend visible au lecteur et, contrairement à la transparence de la traduction effacée, dévoile les coulisses d’un théâtre qui le met en scène aussi (Basalamah, 2006)”. Additionally, translators need to unite and work in numbers if any changes are to be made.

3.5 A Question of Ethics

The previous sections sought to demonstrate some of the roles translation plays in the press. Translation acts as a point of subjective mediation as well as a site of contagion of ideologies and emotions. With the avian flu case study, we saw that even though the translation seemed to stay very close to the source text, certain differences could still be noted. Furthermore, it is not so much the differences that are significant, but rather the fact that the translations are so close to their source texts. As we saw with both unilingual analyses in Chapter 2, both English and French-Canadian press discursively frame the avian flu as an impending threat, which instills fear in the readers. The avian flu articles are part of a broader trend of fear-based rhetoric that has been plaguing the press mostly since September 11th, 2001. The translation of this type of rhetoric, in my opinion, contributes to the dissemination of fear, and should be thought of in more ethical terms.

Though it is true that the target audience deserves to have most of the information provided in the source text, as this is the mandate of the press, translation may also be seen as a space of critical reflection. Should a translator (or in the case of my case study, a journalist)

translate the discursive elements that contribute to fear-based rhetoric? This will be the question I shall try to answer in the following section.

Translators, like journalists, are gatekeepers of information. Journalists are asked, and often required to abide by guiding ethical principles, that is to say, they are responsible for what they write and as such are accountable. In other words, journalists *reflect* on their role in society and their contribution to it. Perhaps due to the invisibility of translation, it is only in recent translation scholarship that translation theorists and professional translators alike have begun to think about translation in ethical terms⁷⁸. However, it is *especially* in the context of translation of press articles that translators should be encouraged to reflect critically on their practice because it is precisely in the media that most people gather the information they use to construct understanding of the world.

Unfortunately, many translators do not realize the important role they have as intercultural mediators (Pym, 1997), and consequently, as reporters⁷⁹. In the eyes of the law, translators are always secondary to the author (or journalist in this case) and the material translation is always secondary to the source text⁸⁰. This may explain why many translators content themselves with translations that are very close to the source text – or as Venuti calls it an “ethics of sameness (1995:82)” – they are fast, they often give a decent rendition of the source text, they do not require much critical reflection and most importantly they are legal. But in terms of ethics, this is a rather blind approach. Translation can propagate certain world views and in this sense it may be worthwhile to think about including ethics in a *skopos*.

⁷⁸ We can think here of Lawrence Venuti's *The Scandals of Translation: An Ethics of Difference* (1995) and Anthony Pym's *Pour une éthique du traducteur* (1997).

⁷⁹ In the sense of the French “rapporteur”.

⁸⁰ Echoed in Venuti (1995) and Basalamah (2006).

As Venuti also says: “given the freedom, the translator can choose to redirect the [...] movement of translation (1995:82)” towards a project that encompasses ethics, or at the very least attempts to do so. Pym, in *Pour une éthique du traducteur*, departs from the traditional question of “how to translate” and asks “should I [as a translator] translate? (1997: 11)”. In the context of translation within the press, this question necessarily forces the translator to reflect on the potential consequences involved in any given translation project. “Should I translate an article that is mainly speculative and creates potentially unnecessary fear?” “Should I translate an article that uses fear to promote certain agendas?” These are some of the questions the translator may need to ask him or herself even before identifying a potential *skopos*. In fact, the answers to these questions may steer the translator in a more critical and ethical approach. But as long as translators are subordinated to clients, authors, and source texts by current professional translator codes of ethics⁸¹ as well as copyright laws, they will find it difficult to be critical; it will not be the ethics of the translator that will dominate, but rather the ethics favorable to the client, author, source text, etc. The key to ethical translation in the press is indeed the liberation of the translator from the prescriptive shackles of “how to translate” discourses (that are often self-imposed in the translation realm) and the recognition

⁸¹ Codes of ethics consulted: -Association Of Translators and Interpreters of Manitoba. ATIM Website.
12 April 2006

<http://atim.mb.ca/english/frameset.html>

-Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec. OTTIAQ Website.

13 April 2006

http://www.ottiaq.org/en/order/deontologie_en.html

-Society of Translators and Interpreters of British-Columbia. STIBC Website.

14 April 2006

http://www.stibc.org/about_code_of_ethics.php

-The Association of Translators and Interpreters of Alberta (ATIA). ATIA Website.

13 April 2006

<http://www.atia.ab.ca/ethics.htm>

-The Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario (ATIO). ATIO Website.

13 April 2006.

<http://www.atio.on.ca/info/ByLaws/ByLaws2/RGL-Anx1FINAL.pdf>

that translation requires expertise, not just bilingualism (the general assumption made by non-translational agents in society). As Antoine Berman states in *La traduction et la lettre ou l'auberge du lointain*: “la question sur ce qu’est une bonne traduction ne dépend pas de l’application d’une doctrine normative, ni même d’un ensemble empiriste de recettes. C’est une question située chaque fois par et pour un observateur lui-même situé, et qui fait partie de ce qu’il observe (1999: 90)”. What non-translational agents need to understand is that translation may introduce textual differences between source and target, as translation is necessarily transformational, but these differences do not mean “treason” (in Berman’s terms) of information. In fact, a translation project that is truly ethical is one that looks to accept differences in order to reach a mutual understanding between two communities; again we are reminded of Berman: “l’acte éthique consiste à reconnaître et à recevoir l’autre en tant qu’autre (1999: 74).”

However, with liberty and visibility come responsibility and accountability, which Pym also discusses (1997: 67-82). If a translator answers “yes” to the initial “should I translate this text?” then he or she becomes responsible for that translation – “le traducteur est responsable pour que son travail contribue à établir la coopération stable et à long terme (1997: 137)”. If a translator is not prepared to be held accountable for the consequences a translation can trigger, such as disseminating fear-based rhetoric, then it may be best he or she not translate.

Yet, if the translator is prepared to be responsible for his or her work, then it is at this point that a *skopos* can be formed, taking not only into consideration the function of the target text, but also certain ethical parameters. Ethics do not necessarily provide the translator with definite answers but ethics can assist the translator into taking into consideration all

aspects of his or her work⁸²: “L’éthique ne sera là que pour l’aider ou l’orienter pendant un processus qui se produit dans son fort intérieur. Elle doit lui permettre de conceptualiser les problèmes relationnels, de prévoir les possibles contradictions, de trouver et de proposer des solutions satisfaisantes (Pym, 1997: 69).” With this in mind, let us ask again: should a translator relay, convey and translate fear-based rhetoric? Evidently, this question does not suppose a “right” or “wrong” answer; it simply allows the translator to reflect and subsequently be able to defend his or her work. Supposing a translator answers “yes I should translate”; there are two main options here, either the translator will choose to convey fear in the target text or he will not. In both cases, this does not presuppose literal or liberal translation, but rather, positions the translator on the ethical spectrum. The first step will inevitably be for the translator to identify that there is fear-based rhetoric in the press article to begin with⁸³. For instance, if fear is conveyed by using speculative information (as aforementioned in earlier sections, fear is often constructed by using the “unknown”), a translator may choose to be literal or liberal in his approach, but avoid retaining speculative information which contributes to fear. Evidently, a multitude of potential approaches could be suggested, but ultimately, what seems the most ethical is to ensure that translation assists in communication and understanding; not the further dissemination of negative world-views that so often are created to benefit certain agendas such as market profitability for newspapers – the more people fear, the more they want to be informed, or political agendas where certain governments rely on their nation’s press to construct certain world-views that favor their political standpoint, etc. Furthermore, when translators reflect on their practice,

⁸² In this sense, ethics are not meant to be prescriptive but rather they act as a guideline.

⁸³ The relevance of discourse analysis for translators: as mentioned in Chap. 2, discourse analysis allows the translator to discover deeper textual meaning and how this meaning can instigate certain emotions.

they also reflect on the world in which they live, as and such, it can only make them a better, more informed, critical citizen.

Evidently, some translators may say that they will translate anything under any circumstance, regardless of the consequences; translation is after all a job and meant to have financial compensation. It is not always possible to take the moral high road as sometimes the need to generate income will be greater. Firstly, this negates the concept of responsibility and additionally, the dissemination of fear, in general and through translation, benefits no one. It creates misunderstanding, unnecessary anxiety and continues to produce the very discourses we as readers may have against the press (i.e. too much sensationalism). A translation project that is truly ethical cannot be dictated by monetary interests.

As we have seen earlier on, objectivity is difficult to obtain as it is only an ideal; the same can be said of ethics. Ethics are a complex network of multiple variables. What may be ethical for one translator may not be ethical for another translator (which is a tangible demonstration of the various possible interpretations a text can generate), thus it is complicated to provide a set code of ethics for any given translational project. But what translators can do is take the time to ask questions relating to their work; that is to say to be critical, to look at all angles and consider all agents. Evidently, even with the best effort, there may not always be answers and solutions that will please each agent, but if anything, it empowers the translator by making him or her proactive in the translation process, as opposed to an automaton that is supposedly devoid of any critical reasoning. Critical thinking will enable the translator to think for himself or herself and remove him or her from his secondary position. In fact, Berman posits, in his article entitled "*Critique, commentaire et*

traduction (Quelques réflexions à partir de Benjamin et de Blanchot)”, that criticism⁸⁴ is a necessary function of the translation process. Criticism means that the translator will look to go beyond a simple and automatic relaying of information. In this sense, translation practice cannot be dictated by one single dominant theory or discourse; translation needs to be critical of itself and the potential it has to displace and disseminate emotions into different spaces. It cannot be limited to source and target texts – it needs to be seen as process, as transformation and as a necessary *reflection* on the world in which we live.

In sum, it would be wise for translators to always look to include an ethical reflection in the process of translating press articles, fear-based or not. Translation has such power in the dissemination of ideas and world-views that it seems almost unreasonable for translators not to think in terms of potential consequences.

⁸⁴ Criticism here is not used in pejorative terms.

CONCLUSION

The aim of this study was to demonstrate that translation has power to disseminate not only ideologies but emotions as well. By identifying that disease constitutes one of the dominant fears in Western society, I decided to analyze how fear of the avian flu (H5N1) was firstly constructed by the Canadian press in both French and English, and then analyze how it was translated. Initially, my hypothesis was that there would have been a significant amount of adaptation; however this not the case. Taking this into consideration, I had to re-evaluate my project and consider new avenues to explore.

The first point of interest was the metaphorical similarity between translation and the epidemic: both act as a space of contagion. Using this metaphor, I explored the ways in which translation can be used to disseminate emotions, notably fear. Though I used disease as an example in my case study, I believe the methodological framework could be transposed onto other current hot topics (as I suggested with the example of wars earlier on). Seeing translation as a space of contagion also demonstrates the power it has to displace and move information from one cultural-linguistic space to another. Essentially, translation acts as a bridge and therefore it is indispensable for the press.

Once I established the role translation can play in the propagation of fear-based rhetoric, I sought to look at potential ways of liberating translation from certain prescriptive discourses. First, I explained how objectivity is never truly attained, neither in the press, nor in translation. This conclusion also dismantled the ever-present concept of “originality” that so often subordinates translated material to source material. Furthermore, using the framework of *skopostheorie*, I attempted to construct a framework that considers not only the function of the target text (as functionalism would have it), but the visibility of the translator and ethics. Such a framework, in my opinion, will work not only to liberate translators from

an unjust hierarchy in the press, but allow them to be critical of their work, contributing a more accountable product. If fear is constructed by the press, translators should realize they have the power to further cement that constructed reality in the minds of the general populace. Translation is not an innocent act even though it is often portrayed as such.

There is no doubt however that this project could have increasingly focused on certain aspects (for instance, a more detailed look into copyright law in the press; a deeper investigation on the employment standards for press translators; etc.), however, due to the scope of the project, some limitations were necessary.

I believe the main strength of this project is its interdisciplinary nature. Exploring different fields allows the translator to consider him or herself outside of “government translation”, often seen as an ideal. Translation does indeed occur in almost every instance of communication and as such, carries tremendous power. By looking towards other disciplines in the humanities for critical thinking skills, translators continue to add to their “toolbox of expertise”, while simultaneously ridding themselves and other non-translational entities of the perception of translation as mere inter-linguistic relaying.

If we continue to subordinate translation to other disciplines and do not include it on the same level, which I hope to have accomplished in this project, we, as translators are continuously contributing to our own self-effacement. Hopefully by illustrating the potential translation has in disseminating emotions and ideologies, we can begin to approach our discipline much more critically and rid ourselves forever of the discourses on “source-oriented vs. target-oriented” and push translation towards other horizons.

In conclusion, I hope the framework I have proposed will be taken in many directions. Since my study concerned itself with the two official Canadian languages, I believe it would be interesting to look at the dissemination of fear, through translation,

between entirely different cultural spaces possessing more distant language pairs (for example, cultures that do not perceive fear in the same light – or even more extreme, cultures in which the concept of “fear” may be totally inexistent). Such a study could hope to bridge some of the currently existing cultural gaps leading towards misunderstanding. In a future project, I hope to be able to expand on this project and consider other sources of constructed fear in the press and their dissemination through translation, especially in a post-9/11 context.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

TRANSLATION THEORY

- BAKER**, Mona. (2006) *Translation and Conflict: A Narrative Account*. London & New York: Routledge.
- BASALAMAH**, Salah. (to be published in an upcoming issue of TTR – cited copy obtained in 2006) *Du droit à l'éthique du traducteur*.
- BASSNETT**, Susan. (1980) *Translation Studies (Revised Edition)*. London & New York: Routledge.
- BERMAN**, Antoine. (1999) *La traduction et la lettre ou l'auberge du lointain*. Paris: Seuil.
- BERMAN**, Antoine. (1995) *Pour une critique des traductions: John Donne*. Paris: Gallimard.
- BERMAN**, Antoine. (1986) "Critique, commentaire et traduction (Quelques réflexions à partir de Benjamin et Blanchot". *Po&sie* 37: 88-106.
- BRISSET**, Annie (2005), *TRA 6902: Discours et Traduction (Fall 2005 Seminar)*, Ottawa: University of Ottawa . (Course book)
- BRISSET**, Annie (2004), *TRA 4975: Théories de la Traduction (Fall 2004 Seminar)*, Ottawa: University of Ottawa . (Course book)
- FAWCETT**, Peter. (1998) "Ideology in Translation", in Ed. M. Baker, *The Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*, London & New York: Routledge.
- FOLKART**, Barbara. (1991) *Le Conflit des énonciations: Traduction et discours rapporté*. Candiatic: Les Éditions Balzac.
- HATIM**, Basil, and Ian MASON. (1990) *Discourse and the Translator*. London & New York: Longman.
- MOSSOP**, Brian. *The Translator as Rapporteur: A concept for training and self-improvement*. META, vol. 28, n. 3, Sept. 1983, p. 244-260.
- MUNDAY**, Jeremy. (2001) *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications*. London & New York: Routledge.
- NORD**, Christiane. (1991) *Text Analysis in Translation: Theory, Methodology, and Didactic Application of a Model for Translation-Oriented Text Analysis*. Amsterdam – Atlanta, GA.: Rodopi.

- NORD**, Christiane. (1997) *Translating as a Purposeful Activity: Functionalist Approaches Explained*. Manchester, UK: St Jerome Publishing.
- PYM**, Anthony. (1997) *Pour une éthique du traducteur*. Arras: Artois Presses Université; Ottawa: Presses de l'Université d'Ottawa.
- Rethinking Translation: Discourse, Subjectivity, Ideology*. (1992) Ed. Lawrence Venuti. London & New York: Routledge.
- Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*. (1997) Ed. Mona Baker. London & New York: Routledge.
- SHULTE**, Rainier, and John **BIGUENET**. (1992) *Theories of Translation: An Anthology of Essays from Dryden to Derrida*. Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press.
- The Return to Ethics*. (2001) Ed. Anthony Pym. The Translator. 7.2.
- The Translation Studies Reader*. (2004) Ed. Lawrence Venuti. London & New York: Routledge.
- VENUTI**, Lawrence. (1998) *The Scandals of Translation: Towards an ethics of difference*. London & New York: Routledge.
- VENUTI**, Lawrence. (1995) *The Translator's Invisibility. A History of Translation*. London & New York: Routledge.

FEAR

- ALTHEIDE**, David L. (2002) *Creating Fear: News and the Construction of Crisis*. New York: Aldine De Gruyter.
- BOURKE**, Joanna. (2005) *Fear: A Cultural History*. London: Virago.
- DOZIER Jr.**, Rush W. (1998) *Fear Itself*. New York: St. Martin' Press.
- FUREDI**, Frank. (1997) *Culture of Fear: Risk-Taking and the Morality of Low Expectation*. London & Washington: Cassell.
- SIEGEL, M.D.**, Mark. (2005) *False Alarm: The Truth About the Epidemic of Fear*. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

- AUSTIN**, J.L. (1982). *How To Do Things With Words*. Oxford; New York: Oxford

University Press.

- Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. 4 vols. (1985) Ed. Teun A. van Dijk. London; Orlando: Academic Press.
- LOCKE**, Terry. (2004) *Critical Discourse Analysis*. London; New York: Continuum.
- PERELMAN**, Ch. And L. **OLBRECHTS-TYTECA**. (1969) *The New Rhetoric. A Treatise on Argumentation*. Notre-Dame, Indiana: University of Notre-Dame Press.
- RENKEMA**, Jan. (1993) *Discourse Studies. An Introductory Textbook*. Philadelphia: Benjamins Publishing Company.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATION THEORY

- AUBENAS**, Florence and Miguel **BENASAYAG**. (1999) *La Fabrication de l'information: Les journalistes et l'idéologie de la communication*. Paris: Les Éditions La Découverte et Syros.
- AUBIN**, Henri and al. (1991) *Questions d'éthique: jusqu'où peuvent aller les journalistes ? (Pour la Fédération professionnelle des journalistes du Québec)* Montreal: Québec/Amérique.
- BAIRD**, Robert M. and William E. **LOGES** and Stuart E. **ROSENBAUM** (Eds.) (1999) *The Media and Morality*. New York: Prometheus Books.
- COHEN**, Elliot D. and Deni **ELLIOTT**. (1997) *Journalism Ethics: a Reference Handbook*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.
- ESQUENAZI**, Jean-Pierre. (2002) *L'écriture de l'actualité : pour une sociologie du discours médiatique*. Grenoble: Presses de l'Université de Grenoble.
- GOLDBERG**, Bernard. *Bias: A CBS Insider Exposes How the Media Distort the News*. Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing Inc. 2002.
- GERVEREAU**, Laurent. (2004) *Inventer l'actualité: La construction imaginaire du monde par les médias internationaux*. Paris: La Découverte.
- GRIPSRUD**, Jostein. (2002) *Understanding Media Culture*. London: Arnold. New York: Oxford University Press.
- KAPFERER**, Jean-Noël. (1990) *Rumeurs. Le plus vieux média du monde*. Paris: Les Éditions du Seuil.
- Les Médias en actes: Pierre Bourdieu & les medias: Rencontres INA/Sorbonne 15 mars 2003* (2003), Paris: L'Harmattan.

- LORIMER**, Rowland and Mike **GASHER**. (2001) *Mass Communication in Canada*. Oxford: Oxford University Press Canada.
- MURRAY**, David et al. *It Ain't Necessarily So: How the Media Remake Our Picture of Reality*. New York: Penguin Books. 2001.
- PIGEAT**, Henri and Jean Huteau. (2000) *Déontologie des médias: Institutions, pratiques et nouvelles approches dans le monde*. Paris: Éditions Unesco: Economica.
- RABOY**, Marc. (2000) *Les médias québécois: presses, radio, television, inforoute*. Montreal: Gaëtan Morin.
- RUSSELL**, Nick. (2006) *Morals and the Media: Ethics in Canadian Journalism*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

LITERARY THEORY, PHILOSOPHY, SOCIOLOGY & CRITICAL THEORY

- BARTHES**, Roland. (1984) *Le Bruissement de la langue*. Paris: Seuil.
- BOURDIEU**, Pierre. (1991) *Language and Symbolic Power*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- BOURDIEU**, Pierre. (1982) *Ce que parler veut dire: L'économie des échanges linguistiques*. Paris: Fayard.
- EAGLETON**, Terry. (1996) *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press.
- FOUCAULT**, Michel. (1963) *Naissance de la clinique*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France.
- GOFFMAN**, Erving. (1974) *Frame Analysis: An Essay on the Organization of Experience*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- HORROCKS**, Chris and Zoran **JEVTIC**. (1997) *Introducing Foucault*. UK: Icon Books Ltd.; Toronto: Penguin Books.
- MACEY**, David. (2000) *Dictionary of Critical Theory*. Toronto: Penguin Books.
- Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977 by Michel Foucault*. Ed. Colin Gordon. New York: Pantheon Books.
- SAID**, Edward W. (1983) *The World, the Text, and the Critic*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

-SIM, Stuart and Borin VAN LOON. (2001) *Introducing Critical Theory*. UK: Icon Books Ltd.; Toronto: Penguin Books.

-SPERBER, Dan. (1996) *La Contagion des idées: Théorie naturaliste de la culture*. Paris: Éditions Odile Jacob.

ART THEORY

-STOKSTAD, Marilyn. (2002) *Art History*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall; New York: Harry N. Abrams.

CORPUS

UNILINGUAL FRENCH CORPUS

-ASSELIN, Pierre. "Le Canada surveille de près la grippe aviaire." *Le Soleil* 26 Aug. 2005 : A5.

-BAPTISTE, Ricard-Châtelain. "Éventuelle pandémie de grippe aviaire au Canada." *Le Soleil* 19 Jan. 2006 : A10.

-BAPTISTE, Ricard-Châtelain. "Un test pour détecter la grippe aviaire." *Le Soleil* 13 Jan. 2006 : A3.

-BAPTISTE, Ricard-Châtelain. "Grippe aviaire : L'Europe en état d'alerte." *Le Soleil* 7 Jan. 2006 : A5.

-BAPTISTE, Ricard-Châtelain. "Alerte à la grippe aviaire : Plans de match en cas de crise." *Le Soleil* 28 May 2005 : A3

-BAPTISTE, Ricard-Châtelain. "Alerte à la grippe aviaire : Démystifier la maladie." *Le Soleil* 28 May 2005 : A2.

-BAPTISTE, Ricard-Châtelain. "Grippe aviaire : Le Canada démuni." *Le Soleil* 4 Feb. 2004: A3.

-FOURNIER, Lise. "Grippe Aviaire : Shire en État d'alerte." *Le Soleil* 9 Feb. 2004 : C1.

-"La grippe aviaire menace : ce qu'il faut savoir sur la grippe aviaire." *Le Soleil* 28 Jan. 2004: A3.

-NORMANDIN, Pierre-André. "Danger de pandémie de grippe : Le ministère accélère ses préparatifs." *Le Soleil*. 8 Oct. 2005.

UNILINGUAL ENGLISH CORPUS

-ANONYMOUS. "Health Canada warns consumers against products to 'protect' against bird flu." Canadian Press NewsWire. 28 Mar. 2006 n/a CBCA Current Events. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ott. Ont. 2 Jun 2006. <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

-BRANSWELL, Helen. "WHO says bird flu problem may take couple of years to contain." Canadian Press NewsWire 9 Feb. 2004 n/a. CBCA Current Events. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ott. Ont. 2 Jun 2006 <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

-BRANSWELL, Helen. "Public health agency wants to commission vaccine trial for H5N1 avian flu." Canadian Press NewsWire. 10 Nov. 2004 n/a CBCA Current Events. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ott. Ont. 2 Jun. 2006. <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

-BRANSWELL, Helen. "Military intelligence warns that the avian flu could be used as weapon: report." Canadian Press NewsWire. 8 Mar. 2005 n/a CBCA Current Events. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ott. Ont. 2 Jun 2006. <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

-BRANSWELL, Helen. "Experts worry changes mean avian flu becoming better at infecting people." Canadian Press NewsWire. 1 May 2005. n/a CBCA Current Events. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ott. Ont. 2 Jun 2006. <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

-BRANSWELL, Helen. "Flu pandemic could trigger second Great Depression, brokerage warns clients." Canadian Press NewsWire 16 Aug. 2005 n/a CBCA Current Events. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ott. Ont. 2 Jun 2006. <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

-BRANSWELL, Helen. "Sales of key antiviral drug soar as awareness of flu pandemic potential rises." Canadian Press NewsWire. 21 Aug. 2005 n/a CBCA Current Events. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ott. Ont. 2 Jun 2006. <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

-BRANSWELL, Helen. "As public tunes in to pandemic threat, officials worry risk nuances lost." Canadian Press NewsWire. 19 Mar. 2006. n/a CBCA Current Events. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ott. Ont. 2 Jun 2006. <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

- PERKINS, Tara.** "Pandemic could drop global GDP growth 2-to-6 percentage points: economist." Canadian Press NewsWire. 13 Mar. 2006 n/a CBCA Current Events. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ott. Ont. 2 Jun 2006.
<http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

TRANSLATED CORPUS

- “Deux ou trois ans pour venir à bout de la grippe aviaire, dit l’OMS” *PC – Le Soleil* 10 Feb. 2004: A5.
- “Ottawa veut des lots d’essai du vaccin contre la grippe aviaire.” *PC- Le Droit* 11 Nov. 2004: 21.
- “Le virus de la grippe aviaire : une possible arme terroriste.” *PC – Le Droit* 9 Mar. 2005: 28.
- “La grippe aviaire est en pleine mutation biologique.” *PC – Le Droit* 2 May 2005: 20.
- “La grippe aviaire en pleine mutation biologique.” *PC – La Presse* 2 May 2005: A9.
- “La grippe aviaire est en pleine mutation biologique.” *PC – Le Soleil* 2 May 2005: A12.
- “Une pandémie de grippe aurait un impact comparable à la Crise de 1929.” *PC – Le Soleil* 17 Aug. 2005: C2.
- “Une pandémie de grippe aurait un impact comparable à la Crise de 1929.” *PC – Le Droit* 17 Aug. 2005: 30.
- “Grippe aviaire : La peur fait tripler les ventes d’antiviral.” *PC – Le Soleil* 22 Aug. 2005: A6.
- “Les ventes d’un antiviral augmentent.” *PC – La Presse* 22 Aug. 2005: A9.
- “Grippe aviaire : une pandémie réduirait la croissance du PIB mondial.” *PC – Le Droit* 14 Mar. 2006: 24.
- “Grippe aviaire : Des experts craignent d’avoir été mal compris.” *PC – Le Soleil* 20 Mar. 2006: A4.
- “Grippe aviaire : Gare aux faux remèdes.” *PC – Le Soleil* 29 Mar. 2006: A9.

WEBSITES AND ONLINE MATERIAL

- “Anthrax fear spreads beyond mail: Investigators stumped by case of N.Y. woman :[Final Edition]. ” Star - Phoenix [Saskatoon, Sask.] 31

- Oct. 2001,C14. Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario 4 Jun 2006 <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>
- AVERT.org. The history of AIDS 1981-1986. http://www.avert.org/his81_86.htm. 13 June 2006.
 - Canadian SARS Numbers. Public Health Agency of Canada. 3 Sept 2003 http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/sars-sras/cn-cc/20030903_e.html 4 June 2006.
 - **DERFEL**, Aaron. "More SARS outbreaks inevitable, MD warns: :[Final Edition]. " The Ottawa Citizen [Ottawa, Ont.] 14 Nov. 2003,A5. Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario 13 Jun 2006 <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>.
 - **ENSOR**, David. "Biden: Bioterrorism more of a threat than missiles." 5 Sept. 2001. CNN. 4 June 2006. <http://archives.cnn.com/2001/ALLPOLITICS/09/05/bioterror.threats/index.html>
 - **GEORGE**, Lianne. "Forget SARS, West Nile, Ebola and the avian flu. The real epidemic is fear." Macleans 29 Sept 2005. 10 Dec 2005. http://www.macleans.ca/topstories/health/article.jsp?content=20051003_113117_113117
 - "SARS found in three Ontario kids :[DAILY Edition 1]. " Daily News [Halifax, N.S.] 1 Apr. 2003,14. Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario. 13 Jun 2006 <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>
 - "SARS toll climbs :[Final Edition]. " Calgary Herald [Calgary, Alta.] 31 Mar. 2003,A1 FRONT. Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Onatio. 13 Jun 2006 <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>
 - Stigma and HIV/AIDS: A review of the literature. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration HIV/AIDS Bureau <http://hab.hrsa.gov/publications/stigma/introduction.htm>. 4 June 2006.
 - **WES**, Allison. Scripps Howard News Service "Masks can't stop anthrax: Store-bought masks are useless in the fight against the deadly virus :[DAILY Edition]. " Daily News [Halifax, N.S.] 29 Oct. 2001,19. Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies. ProQuest. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario. 4 Jun 2006 <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2451/>

DICTIONARIES AND REFERENCE WORKS

- The Canadian Oxford*. (2001) Ed. Barber, Katherine. Oxford University Press.
- Robert, Paul. (2004) *Le Petit Robert: Dictionnaire de la langue française*. Paris: Dictionnaires Le Robert.

APPENDIX 1:

French Corpus
From
Le Soleil

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Actualités, mercredi 28 janvier 2004, p. A3

La grippe aviaire menace

Ce qu'il faut savoir sur la grippe aviaire

Q Comment risque-t-on de l'attraper ?

R Depuis les premiers cas à Hong-Kong en 1997, il semble que le virus aviaire n'ait maintenant plus besoin de circonstances exceptionnelles pour passer à l'humain. Les fientes d'oiseaux séchées ou les sécrétions respiratoires des animaux sont très riches en particules virales et les diffusent facilement dans l'atmosphère. Ce n'est qu'en respirant de l'air qui contient du virus en suspension que l'homme risque de se contaminer. "Jamais en mangeant du poulet", précise Jean-Claude Manuguerra, virologue à l'Institut Pasteur (Paris). H5N1 ne résiste pas à la cuisson. Bonne nouvelle pour les restaurateurs. Même consommé cru, il serait détruit par l'acidité du système digestif. "Le risque de contamination de l'homme par des viandes infectées doit être considéré comme faible, voire négligeable" confirme un document de l'Afssa (Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments). Même conclusion pour les oeufs.

Q Par quel mécanisme le virus de la grippe du poulet pourrait-il se transmettre d'homme à homme ?

R Jusqu'à présent, tous les malades ont été contaminés par des animaux. Pour s'humaniser (passer directement d'homme à homme), le virus H5N1 dispose de deux stratégies. L'adaptation génétique ou la rencontre fortuite. La première lui permet de modifier certains de ses gènes et de les ajuster à la physiologie humaine. Des mutations pourraient par exemple lui permettre de mieux s'attaquer aux cellules humaines ou de jouer sur sa sensibilité à la température corporelle de l'homme, pour mieux la supporter. La seconde dépend de sa rencontre avec un virus humain de la grippe. Leur union conduirait à un virus hybride, particulièrement pathogène puisque totalement nouveau. Vaccins existants inefficaces, absence d'immunité naturelle... le virus muté pourrait alors se répandre extrêmement rapidement. Avec le spectre des pandémies meurtrières du XXe siècle: grippe espagnole, grippe asiatique... C'est le scénario catastrophe qu'évoque l'OMS. Le cas pourrait se produire si une personne grippée se surinfectait avec un virus de la grippe aviaire. Ce qui n'est pas encore arrivé. "On espère encore pouvoir éviter son passage à l'homme, dit Jean-Claude Manuguerra. Tant que la chaîne de transmission n'a pas commencé, l'espoir est permis". "Ce qui inquiète, ajoute Philippe Barboza, épidémiologiste à l'Institut de Veille Sanitaire, c'est la multiplication des foyers aviaires. Plus ils augmentent, plus le risque de recombinaison avec un virus grippal augmente."

Q Pourquoi la grippe aviaire inquiète-t-elle plus les experts que le Sras ?

R Les épidémiologistes estiment que le H5N1 est beaucoup plus contagieux que le Sras (syndrome respiratoire aigu sévère). "Si la chaîne épidémique commence chez l'homme, elle sera beaucoup plus difficile à rompre que celle du Sras", estime en outre Jean-Claude Manuguerra. Selon ses estimations, une fois humanisé, le virus de la grippe aviaire serait trois ou quatre fois plus contaminant que celui du Sras. D'après les modèles statistiques, un patient atteint de Sras peut contaminer trois personnes, tandis qu'un malade de la grippe en infecte 5 à 10 autres, "voire plus en cas de pandémie" précise le virologue. Surtout, la mortalité d'un nouveau virus grippal serait bien supérieure à celle du Sras. En 1997, où la grippe du poulet était passée pour la première fois chez l'homme, 6 des 18 malades contaminés étaient

décédés. Toutes les souches aviaires ne sont cependant pas aussi sévères pour l'homme que le H5N1. Au printemps 2003, une épidémie de grippe du poulet à virus H7N7 avait décimé (abattage compris) 20 millions de volailles en Hollande et Belgique, mais un seul décès avait été déploré chez les 83 humains infectés.

Q Existe-t-il des traitements ? Quand un vaccin sera-t-il disponible ?

R La plupart des antiviraux actifs contre le virus de la grippe ont aussi un effet contre le virus H5N1. Ils peuvent donc être utilisés chez les malades. Un traitement préventif des populations n'est en revanche pas à l'ordre du jour. Exception: les membres de l'équipe OMS, potentiellement très exposés, ont recours à ces traitements dits prophylactiques, de même qu'ils sont vaccinés contre la grippe. Quant à un hypothétique vaccin contre le H5N1, sa mise au point risque de prendre du temps, malgré les nombreuses équipes mobilisées. "Des essais préliminaires sont en cours avec un vaccin fabriqué à partir des souches de 1997, explique Philippe Barboza. Malheureusement, il semble que le H5N1 actuel soit significativement différent de celui de 1997. Il faudrait mettre au point un vaccin à partir de la nouvelle souche". Des mois de travail, au moins.

Illustration(s) :

Jusqu'à présent, tous les malades ont été contaminés par des animaux.

Catégorie : Actualités

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Maladies, traitement et prévention; Santé publique et condition physique

Taille : Moyen, 556 mots

© 2004 *Le Soleil*. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20040128-LS-0007

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

©

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Actualités, mercredi 4 février 2004, p. A3

Grippe aviaire

Le Canada démuni

Le directeur de l'Institut des maladies infectieuses juge que le pays manque d'experts pour faire face à une épidémie

Ricard-Châtelain, Baptiste

L'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) a beau réclamer des épidémiologistes canadiens afin de combattre la grippe aviaire, encore faudrait-il que le pays en ait suffisamment sous la main pour les prêter.

Selon le directeur scientifique de l'Institut des maladies infectieuses et immunitaires du Canada, le Dr Bhagirath Singh, nous sommes démunis. " Le problème, c'est qu'on n'a pas beaucoup d'experts. Lors de la crise du SRAS (Syndrome respiratoire aigu sévère), Toronto a dû faire venir des gens de l'extérieur pour l'aider ", rappelle-t-il depuis London en Ontario.

Voilà un peu plus d'une semaine, deux émissaires de Santé Canada ont élu domicile en Thaïlande, à la demande de l'OMS : un épidémiologiste et... un spécialiste des communications. Ottawa évalue actuellement ses ressources avant de répondre à une nouvelle requête.

Le Dr Singh souligne que les maladies respiratoires respectent de moins en moins les frontières tout en étant de plus en plus nombreuses. D'où son invitation pressante à l'investissement public pour dresser une armée d'experts, pour réviser nos défenses.

D'ailleurs, il prône le retour des contrôles dans les aéroports, ainsi que l'hospitalisation rapide des " suspects " comme à l'époque du SRAS. " Les maladies sont similaires. Nous devons utiliser le même type de précautions. "

Mais il n'y a vraiment pas lieu de s'inquiéter, insiste le médecin-chercheur. Il ne faut que mettre les barrières en place avant que le virus ne débarque en avion.

" Ce n'est pas le temps de paniquer. C'est le temps d'être vigilant. " Des mesures d'hygiène de base permettent de lutter efficacement, dit-il.

" Mais c'est important pour nous de savoir ce qui se passe ", de bien comprendre l'ennemi potentiel. Pour l'instant, le virus H5N1 n'aurait tué que 14 personnes. Mais s'il devait se lier d'amitié avec le virus humain de la grippe, les ravages pourraient être considérables.

Le spectre de la " recombinaison génétique ", voilà l'assise des craintes exprimées par l'OMS au cours des derniers jours, expose le Dr Guy Boivin, microbiologiste et infectiologue au CHUL.

Néanmoins, il ne repousserait surtout pas un voyage en Asie pour cause de grippe du poulet. Santé Canada acquiesce. " Il n'y a rien que nous avons vu qui indique qu'il y aura une pandémie d'influenza. Il

faut en prendre et en laisser ", affirme le médecin de Québec.

Sans soutenir que l'OMS réagit un peu trop fortement, il souligne que la crise du SRAS a fouetté la communauté internationale. Elle est plus prompte.

Le Dr Boivin fait remarquer, en outre, que le virus H5N1 n'est pas nouveau. En 1997, 1,5 million de poulets infectés ont été abattus à Hong-Kong.

Au ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec, on note que les médecins de toute la province reçoivent de l'information au sujet de la grippe aviaire. La porte-parole, Dominique Breton, recommande aux voyageurs de ne pas manger de volaille ou d'oeufs mal cuits. Et d'avertir leur médecin dès l'apparition de symptômes, au retour des pays touchés, principalement le Vietnam, la Corée du Sud, le Japon et la Thaïlande.

BRicard@lesoleil.com

Illustration(s) :

Catégorie : Actualités

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Maladies, traitement et prévention; Santé publique et condition physique

Type(s) d'article : Graphique, tableau, etc.

Taille : Moyen, 375 mots

(c) 2004 Le Soleil. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20040204-LS-0008

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

©

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Économie, lundi 9 février 2004, p. C1

Grippe aviaire
Shire en état d'alerte

Fournier, Lise

Depuis que la grippe aviaire sévit en Asie, c'est l'état d'alerte chez Produits biologiques Shire. La raison ? Si jamais le virus de la grippe du poulet devait muter pour se transmettre à l'humain, la compagnie devrait fabriquer en un temps record 32 millions d'unités de vaccins pour immuniser tous les Canadiens en vertu d'une entente négociée avec le fédéral en 2001.

Et c'est fort probablement l'usine de production du parc technologique de Sainte-Foy - qu'on modernise en ce moment au coût de 47 millions \$ - qui hériterait de la commande. Une fois ces travaux terminés, l'usine pourra d'ailleurs sortir jusqu'à 50 millions d'unités de vaccins.

Pour l'instant, ce scénario demeure toutefois hypothétique, car la transmission d'humain à humain n'a pas encore été clairement établie même si le cas de deux soeurs vietnamiennes a été examiné de près par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS). Néanmoins, les experts du monde entier sont actuellement sur le qui-vive afin de trouver une solution à la grippe aviaire, qui décime les poulaillers d'Asie et menace les populations de l'endroit. Les scientifiques de Shire suivent eux aussi l'évolution de la maladie dans le but de participer à l'élaboration d'un nouveau vaccin. L'OMS a d'ailleurs évoqué cette semaine la possibilité de vacciner les volatiles au lieu de poursuivre les abattages massifs d'oiseaux.

Actuellement, la fièvre aviaire touche 10 pays d'Asie. Elle a forcé l'abattage de 50 millions de poulets et tué, à ce jour, 18 personnes contaminées par les volatiles. Or, ce que redoute par-dessus tout l'OMS, c'est l'éclosion d'un virus hybride - combinaison du virus du poulet avec celui de l'influenza ordinaire - qui se transmettrait d'humain à humain. On parlerait alors d'une pandémie. Selon les scientifiques, elle pourrait égaler celle de la grippe espagnole, qui a tué 20 millions de personnes, en 1918.

Procédure accélérée

À titre préventif, le gouvernement fédéral s'est donc doté à l'automne 2001 d'un fournisseur officiel de vaccins. Shire a la mission de fabriquer chaque année les vaccins de l'influenza qui sont distribués, l'automne, dans les réseaux de la santé d'un océan à l'autre.

Michèle Roy, porte-parole de Shire, explique toutefois que la procédure régulière de production d'un vaccin se fait toujours en collaboration avec l'OMS. "Il faut attendre leurs directives, souligne-t-elle. C'est eux qui nous indiquent vers la mi-février quelles seront les souches virales actives au cours de la prochaine saison. Une fois ces données en main, nous pouvons attaquer la production. Mais il y a plusieurs étapes de fabrication : d'abord la culture des souches du virus sur des oeufs de poules, la production des premières doses, les essais cliniques et enfin la livraison. Un délai d'environ neuf mois est nécessaire."

"Mais s'il y avait pandémie, précise Mme Roy, nous cesserions sur-le-champ la production régulière de

vaccins pour donner priorité à la fièvre aviaire. Nous avons même prévu une procédure d'urgence qui réduit les délais de moitié. Donc, les premières unités de vaccins arriveraient à l'intérieur de six semaines et l'ensemble de la production (25 millions d'unités) 10 à 12 semaines plus tard.

"Et contrairement à d'autres pays, ajoute Mme Roy, le Canada est très bien préparé pour faire face à une pandémie. Nous le sommes aussi, ajoute-t-elle. En fait, peu de pays ont des producteurs de vaccins sur leur territoire. C'est un avantage. Et pour nous, la priorité sera de répondre efficacement aux besoins des Canadiens avant de pouvoir penser aller à l'extérieur."

Illustration(s) :

Reuter

Dans certains pays d'Asie, la grippe aviaire frappe durement.

Catégorie : Économie

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Maladies, traitement et prévention; Santé publique et condition physique

Taille : Moyen, 428 mots

© 2004 *Le Soleil*. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20040209-LS-0068

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

©

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

La Une, samedi 28 mai 2005, p. A2

Alerte à la grippe aviaire Démystifier la maladie

Ricard-Châtelain, Baptiste

Q Qu'est-ce que la grippe aviaire ?

R "Tous les virus de grippe émanent des oiseaux", expose la Dre Sylvie Trottier, microbiologiste au CHUL et à l'hôpital Laval. Les oiseaux sont porteurs de toute une gamme de grippes. Les symptômes sont les mêmes que pour toutes les grippes hivernales. Présentement, la grippe A/H5N1 est à l'avant-scène, inquiète, même si plusieurs "sortes" de grippes aviaires sont actives.

Q Qu'est-ce qu'une pandémie ?

R C'est une épidémie qui s'étend à tout un continent, voire au monde entier, et qui touche un très grand nombre de personnes.

Q Pourquoi craindre une pandémie d'influenza ?

R "On serait dû pour une nouvelle pandémie car chaque 20 à 40 ans, il y en a une", explique le Dr Guy Boivin, microbiologiste et infectiologue au CHUL et à l'hôpital Laval. La dernière remonte à 1968. Chaque fois, les morts s'empilaient. Toutefois, il est impossible de prévoir la date d'apparition d'une pandémie.

Q Pourquoi des spécialistes ont peur de la grippe aviaire A/H5N1 ?

R "Parce qu'il y a des signes inquiétants. (...) Le H5N1, c'est le plus grand candidat pour une prochaine pandémie, enchaîne le Dr Boivin. Mais il pourrait y en avoir d'autres." Depuis l'an passé, il y a une résurgence de H5N1. "Et il semble plus virulent." En plus, des mammifères commencent à tomber au combat. Des chats, les tigres d'un zoo d'Asie, des humains ont été fauchés, souligne-t-il. Il ajoute que les oiseaux ne sont normalement pas affectés par ce type de virus ; ils jouent simplement le rôle de porteurs. Sauf qu'ils ont des symptômes avec le H5N1.

Q La menace est-elle exagérée ?

R La menace serait réelle. Mais l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) se servirait également de la peur pour fouetter des pays qui ne font rien contre quelque maladie que ce soit, juge le Dr Paul Gully, de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada. Une façon de stimuler la prévention. Reste à voir si les pays pauvres ont les moyens de ces ambitions.

Q Combien d'humains ont été terrassés jusqu'à maintenant par H5N1 ?

R "On parle de mortalité très, très élevée de plus de 50 %, commente le Dr Boivin. Le SRAS, c'était 10

% à 15 %. Et on capotait !" Les jeunes en santé ne sont pas épargnés. Le 19 mai, le bilan de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) faisait état de 97 humains infectés au Viêtnam, en Thaïlande et au Cambodge. Plus de la moitié (53) sont morts. "C'est probablement le pic de l'iceberg." L'OMS ne compile que les cas confirmés par des analyses de laboratoire...

Q Comment les virus d'influenza aviaires colonisent les humains ?

R Pour l'instant, il n'y a que quelques cas confirmés de transmission d'humain à humain de la grippe aviaire H5N1. "Pour une pandémie, il faut qu'il soit hautement transmissible à l'homme, ce qui n'est pas encore le cas", explique le Dr Boivin. Généralement, le virus de la grippe part des oiseaux et colonise des mammifères, surtout des porcs. Dans leurs poumons, il s'amourache d'un virus capable d'assiéger les humains... un super-virus naît.

Q La grippe aviaire dont on parle maintenant est-elle plus "efficace" ?

R La grippe aviaire H5N1 semble en mesure de se passer des porcs. Les cas de transmission directe du poulet à l'homme sont confirmés. Les experts craignent donc que deux virus de grippe - un aviaire et un humain - se fusionnent chez un malade et que le nouveau virus charge la planète entière.

Q N'y aurait-il pas un vaccin pour nous prémunir ?

R Le problème, c'est que l'amalgame de deux virus humain et aviaire d'influenza créerait un tout nouveau virus contre lequel personne n'est immunisé, et contre lequel aucun vaccin n'existe. "On ne peut pas le développer avant qu'on ait la souche pandémique", détaille le Dr Horacio Arruda, directeur de la protection de la santé publique du Québec. Il faudrait alors au moins six mois pour mettre le vaccin au monde. En attendant, des doses de médicaments antiviraux seront disponibles, mais pas pour tous. Le Québec dispose d'une réserve. Le Canada a signé une entente pour la fabrication des vaccins. Des contrats lucratifs. Beaucoup de pays n'ont aucun plan de match et ne disposeraient pas de traitements en cas de pandémie.

BRicard@lesoleil.com

Catégorie : Actualités

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Santé publique et condition physique; Maladies, traitement et prévention

Taille : Moyen, 492 mots

© 2005 Le Soleil. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20050528-LS-0005

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

©

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Actualités, samedi 28 mai 2005, p. A3

Alerte à la grippe aviaire

Plans de match en cas de crise

Le Canada et le Québec devraient faire face à des choix difficiles

Ricard-Châtelain, Baptiste

Demain matin, une pandémie de grippe frappe : des plans de match sont en partie brodés au Canada et au Québec... Des choix difficiles s'imposent, laissant plusieurs d'entre nous sur le banc.

D'abord, le Dr Paul Gully, administrateur à l'Agence de santé publique du Canada, tient à préciser qu'il est convaincu qu'une pandémie de grippe cognera. Il est toutefois impossible de prévoir quand, où et combien de temps il faudra au virus pour débarquer au pays. "Maintenant, à cause de la capacité de voyager, peut-être que le premier cas va arriver dans un mois ou moins."

Trop court pour produire des vaccins pour toute la population. Dès le signal de départ, la production sera néanmoins lancée. "C'est la réponse la plus efficace pour réduire la mortalité et la morbidité dans la population", explique le Dr Gully. Il faudra toutefois attendre au moins six à huit mois avant que chaque citoyen ait reçu son ou ses injections (parfois, plusieurs doses sont nécessaires).

Entre-temps, des médicaments antiviraux seront distribués. Mais pas à n'importe qui, même si jusqu'au tiers de la population pourrait être malade.

Une liste un peu vague de bénéficiaires prioritaires existe. Les personnes malades seront les premières traitées afin de freiner la propagation. Les travailleurs des services d'urgence, de la santé et des services essentiels présentant les premiers symptômes suivront. Déjà, il y a place à l'arbitraire, admet M. Gully. Qui est "essentiel" ?

Abus

Mais c'est dans la troisième catégorie que les abus pourraient être les plus évidents : les décideurs "principaux" en matière de santé et les travailleurs de la première ligne obtiendront des comprimés en guise de prévention, même s'ils ne sont pas malades. Après, et seulement après, les malades chroniques et les autres personnes à risque seront traitées.

"Ce sera très, très difficile de décider, pendant une crise, qui va avoir le médicament", admet le Dr Gully. Qui tranchera, sélectionnera les "décideurs principaux" ou les "travailleurs de la première ligne" ? "Les gouvernements", répond le médecin.

Jusqu'à maintenant, Ottawa a investi environ 24 millions \$ pour 16 millions de doses d'antiviraux. Elles ont été distribuées aux provinces au prorata de la population.

Insuffisant pour le gouvernement de la Belle Province qui s'assure de la disponibilité de quelque 11 millions de comprimés, précise le Dr Horacio Arruda, directeur de la protection de la santé publique.

Les antiviraux ont toutefois un effet limité. "C'est vraiment une mesure pour retarder la propagation."

La quarantaine

De 15 % à 35 % des Québécois pourraient donc se mettre à tousser, à renifler, en cas de pandémie, note le Dr Arruda. Et les hôpitaux ne pourront accueillir les 500 000 à 1,2 million de malades. La Santé publique pourrait alors les diriger vers "des sites non-traditionnels de traitement". En somme, on commencera à penser quarantaine, fermeture d'écoles...

Sécurité civile

La Sécurité civile entrerait dans la danse, un peu comme durant la crise du verglas. Des retraités et des bénévoles pourraient être appelés en renfort pour soigner, vacciner...

Un plan "psychosocial" est également en cogitation, ajoute le Dr Arruda. Les morts seront peut-être nombreuses. "Les gens peuvent avoir besoin de support psychologique."

En parallèle, un grand plan de communication avec les citoyens serait enclenché. "Les médias vont devenir un instrument majeur." On nous apprendra à nous soigner, à reconnaître les symptômes...

Soulignons que toutes les projections sont établies en fonction des anciennes pandémies. "Mais, on a des moyens de lutte plus efficaces", remarque le Dr Guy Boivin, microbiologiste et infectiologue au CHUL et à l'hôpital Laval. Peut-être que les scénarios établis ne se concrétiseront pas.

Événements marquants

21 MAI 1997: HONG-KONG

Premier cas de transmission du virus de la grippe aviaire du poulet à l'homme.

29 DÉCEMBRE 1997: HONG-KONG

Les autorités ordonnent l'abattage de 1,5 million de poulets.

NOVEMBRE 2003

Cent millions de poulets meurent ou doivent être abattus dans huit pays (Cambodge, Chine, Indonésie, Japon, Laos, Corée du Sud, Thaïlande, Viêtnam).

21 OCTOBRE 2004: THAÏLANDE

Le zoo de Sri Racha annonce qu'une trentaine de tigres sont morts de la grippe, après avoir consommé du poulet cru.

3 FÉVRIER 2005: VIÊTNAM

Le pays demande l'aide de la communauté internationale. Les élevages sont touchés dans 33 provinces sur 64, malgré l'abattage de 1,4 million de poulet.

7 FÉVRIER 2005: CHINE

Des scientifiques affirment qu'ils ont mis au point un vaccin destiné aux volatiles.

11 FÉVRIER 2005: THAÏLANDE

Abattage de 2,7 millions de canards.

18 FÉVRIER 2005: VIÊTNAM

Des scientifiques prévoient tester un vaccin sur des humains d'ici la fin de l'année. D'autres vaccins seront bientôt testés en France et aux États-Unis.

8 AVRIL 2005: CORÉE DU NORD

Après avoir longtemps nié la présence du virus sur son territoire, le gouvernement demande l'aide de la communauté internationale.

4 MAI 2005: CHINE

Découverte de 170 oiseaux migrateurs, tués par le virus dans l'ouest du pays.

6 MAI 2005: VIÊTNAM

L'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) confirme que le virus de la grippe aviaire a été transmis d'une personne à une autre.

22 MAI 2005: CHINE

Mesures d'urgence. Vaccination de trois millions de volatiles et fermeture des réserves naturelles.

26 MAI 2005: THAÏLANDE

Une étude révèle que, dans certaines régions du pays, la moitié des porcs sont porteurs du virus, sans toutefois tomber malades.

Illustration(s) :

Catégorie : Actualités

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Santé publique et condition physique; Maladies, traitement et prévention

Type(s) d'article : Graphique, tableau, etc.

Taille : Moyen, 642 mots

© 2005 Le Soleil. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20050528-LS-0006

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Actualités, vendredi 26 août 2005, p. A5

Le Canada surveille de près la grippe aviaire

Asselin, Pierre

Les organismes responsables de la santé publique, tant fédéral que québécois, continuent de surveiller de près la progression du virus de la grippe aviaire, qui est maintenant aux portes de l'Europe.

Il n'y a toutefois pas encore de raison d'accélérer les préparatifs, indiquait hier au SOLEIL la porte-parole du ministère de la Santé, Dominique Breton. Les autorités provinciales discutent toujours avec celles des 18 régions sociosanitaires pour finaliser le plan d'intervention québécois, dit-elle.

Rappelons que le Québec a acheté 3,2 millions de doses de médicaments antiviraux mais que l'objectif est de créer une réserve de 11 millions de doses.

"Le Canada est en contact constant avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, qui estime toujours qu'une pandémie est imminente", ajoute-t-elle. L'OMS se charge de faire la vigie pour le Canada, et pour le moment le niveau d'alerte reste inchangé au stade 3, poursuit la porte-parole.

Par ailleurs, le *Washington Post* rapportait que des experts réunis hier par l'Union européenne ont exprimé leur inquiétude de voir le virus poursuivre sa progression vers l'Europe et recommandé la plus haute vigilance aux 25 États membres de l'Union.

Ils ont affirmé, dans une déclaration, être inquiets de la présence du virus dans cinq régions de Sibérie ainsi que dans un district des montagnes de l'Oural, qui sépare la région asiatique de la Russie de la partie européenne. Seuls les oiseaux ont été touchés, aucun humain n'a été contaminé jusqu'ici en Russie.

Les Pays-Bas ont déjà recommandé à leurs éleveurs de garder les volailles à l'intérieur. Le pays avait été affecté par le virus en 2000, quand plus de 30 millions de volailles avaient dû être détruites. Les experts européens jugent toutefois qu'il est trop tôt pour envisager un tel scénario dans les autres pays de l'Union.

Enfin, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé rappelle que la progression géographique du virus multiplie les risques de contagion pour les humains. Chaque nouveau cas est une occasion de plus pour le virus d'améliorer sa transmissibilité.

PAsselin@lesoleil.com

Illustration(s) :

Le Québec a déjà acheté 3,2 millions de doses de médicaments antiviraux mais l'objectif est de créer une réserve de 11 millions de doses.

Catégorie : Actualités

Taille : Court, 267 mots

© 2005 *Le Soleil*. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20050826-LS-0016

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

©

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

La Une, samedi 8 octobre 2005, p. A1

Danger de pandémie de grippe

Le ministère de la Santé accélère ses préparatifs

Normandin, Pierre-André

Devant la menace d'une pandémie mondiale de grippe, le ministère de la Santé du Québec accélère l'élaboration de son plan d'urgence. Chaque nouvelle alerte incite les experts du gouvernement, qui se réunissent déjà sur une base régulière, à revoir les préparatifs.

La question est désormais considérée comme une "priorité prioritaire", indique Michel Savard, médecin-conseil à la Direction générale de la santé publique. L'ampleur appréhendée de la crise est telle que les autorités savent d'ores et déjà qu'elles seront débordées. Leurs plans visent donc à limiter les dégâts au sein d'un réseau déjà surchargé.

"Quand les gens nous posent la question "Êtes-vous prêts ?", la réponse est "Oui, on a un plan". Mais s'ils nous demandent s'il n'y aura pas de problème, on répond qu'aucun pays n'est totalement prêt", dit le Dr Savard.

Reste que ce spécialiste juge que le Québec est bien placé pour faire face à une pandémie, son plan d'urgence étant bien avancé. "On en est à se demander si l'on devra fermer les écoles ou non. Si on devra mettre des restrictions sur les regroupements publics, par exemple." Évidemment, la réponse à ces questions ne viendra qu'une fois l'ampleur de la menace connue.

Stock d'antiviraux

Pour faire face à une éventuelle crise, le ministère de la Santé constitue présentement une banque d'antiviraux qui compte déjà quelques millions de doses. Ces médicaments qui servent à combattre les virus et à limiter leur propagation sont entreposés dans divers endroits stratégiques de la province. Le Dr Savard préfère ne pas citer de nombre puisque le stock est en progression constante.

"En cas de crise, c'est certain qu'on va vivre dans un contexte de pénurie", prévient-il. La pression internationale est tellement forte que les entreprises pharmaceutiques ne peuvent pas fournir à la demande. Le Dr Savard assure toutefois qu'il n'y a pas lieu de s'inquiéter. "Si on se compare avec les autres provinces et d'autres pays, on est très confortables."

Le plan d'urgence est suffisamment élaboré pour que Québec songe maintenant à se constituer une réserve d'équipements nécessaires en cas de pandémie, comme des respirateurs ou des lits.

Aucune réserve de vaccins n'a toutefois été prévue puisqu'on ne sait pas quelle souche du virus de la grippe frappera. À l'heure actuelle, c'est la grippe aviaire, le H5N1, qui fait craindre le pire aux autorités, mais rien ne dit qu'elle ne se combinera pas avec une autre variante avant de se répandre aux quatre coins du monde.

Les avancées technologiques permettent toutefois d'espérer la découverte rapide d'un vaccin à la suite de l'éclosion d'une pandémie. "Si le vaccin est disponible, la technologie nous permet d'espérer qu'on va pouvoir réagir rapidement. On prévoit vacciner l'ensemble de la population", indique le Dr Savard.

Comme il s'agit d'une procédure volontaire, le ministère estime qu'environ 75 % des gens devraient s'en prévaloir, soit 5,4 millions de Québécois. À deux doses par personne, il faudra donc en prévoir 11 millions.

À cette quantité, impossible de vacciner tout le monde en même temps. Une liste de priorités "suivant le bon sens" sera donc établie. Le personnel du secteur de la santé sera certainement le premier à en bénéficier pour éviter qu'il ne serve lui-même de vecteur de propagation. Ensuite, les personnes les plus vulnérables seront vaccinées puisqu'elles sont les plus susceptibles de décéder si elles sont infectées.

En se fiant aux dernières pandémies, le ministère de la Santé évalue qu'une nouvelle vague mondiale de grippe pourrait toucher 35 % de la population de la province. Toutefois, sur ce nombre, seulement 2 % nécessiterait une hospitalisation.

Malgré ses avertissements, qu'il veut sérieux, le Dr Savard tient à tempérer les craintes. "Aux décideurs endormis, je leur présente le verre à moitié vide parce qu'il faut prendre la situation très au sérieux. Mais aux personnes inquiètes, je leur présente le verre à moitié plein parce que la majorité des gens ne devraient pas être affectés par une pandémie. Et la majorité des personnes touchées vont en guérir."

Plan national

Ces préparatifs du ministère de la Santé se déroulent au moment même où le ministère de la Sécurité publique du Québec élabore son tout premier Plan national de sécurité civile. Initiés à la suite du verglas de 1998, ces travaux devraient aboutir en mars 2007.

Pour l'instant, seule la partie concernant la coordination des différents ministères est prête, indiquent la directrice de la coordination interministérielle, Lise Asselin, et la conseillère responsable du Plan national, Claude Beaudin. L'action du gouvernement a été séparée en 16 "missions" différentes, relevant chacune d'un ministère.

Une fois complété, le Plan national se divisera en quatre volets pour faire face à un sinistre majeur, soit la prévention, la préparation, l'intervention et le rétablissement. Cette démarche cherche avant tout à consolider les différentes dispositions qui existent déjà afin d'éviter la confusion au sein des différentes branches du gouvernement.

D'ici là, le ministère devrait également présenter avant la fin de l'année 2005 un Plan québécois de gestion contre le terrorisme.

PANormandin@lesoleil.com

Catégorie : La Une; Actualités

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Santé publique et condition physique; Maladies, traitement et prévention; Hôpitaux, soins hospitaliers et urgences

Taille : Moyen, 610 mots

© 2005 Le Soleil. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20051008-LS-0002

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

© 2001 CE.D.F.O.M.-S.N.I.

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Actualités, samedi 7 janvier 2006, p. A5

Grippe aviaire
L'Europe en état d'alerte

Ricard-Châtelain, Baptiste

"La grippe aviaire n'est plus un problème régional", avertit l'Organisation mondiale de la santé. L'Europe est "officiellement" inscrite au tableau de chasse du virus.

En octobre, la Santé publique européenne s'était énervée lors de la découverte des premiers oiseaux infectés, principalement en Serbie, en Grèce et en Roumanie. Hier, elle a été secouée de nouveau quand la Turquie a présenté une vingtaine de dossiers suspects et a confirmé trois décès. "C'est la première fois qu'il y a des cas humains documentés."

Il y a loin de la panique, prévient toutefois Fadela Chaib, porte-parole de l'OMS, jointe à Genève hier.

Le désormais célèbre virus aviaire H5N1 est probablement implanté dans le Vieux Continent depuis un moment. Mais puisque les symptômes ressemblent à ceux d'une infection respiratoire bénigne, les médecins y prêtaient peu attention.

Les projecteurs étant maintenant braqués sur le nouvel ennemi, on le débusque. Puisqu'on cherche, on trouve, en somme. "On va détecter beaucoup plus de cas."

Le dossier turc n'est cependant pas dénué d'intérêt, note-t-elle. Non seulement parce que ce sont les premiers cas humains aux portes de l'Europe, "mais aussi parce qu'il y a des cas parmi les enfants et les voisins. Ce n'est pas un cas ici et là. Ce sont vraiment des groupes de cas."

Tout l'entourage des élevages est touché, pas seulement les fermiers. Mais le virus ne semble pas encore capable de sauter d'un humain à l'autre. Toutes les victimes auraient été en contact avec un volatile infecté.

Crier au loup ?

Mme Chaib répète toutefois qu'il n'y a pas lieu de s'exciter. "On n'a pas changé notre niveau d'alerte." L'OMS utilise un peu la peur de la grippe aviaire pour stimuler les gouvernements qui se fichent des dossiers de santé publique. "Il vaut mieux réagir trop que ne pas réagir assez."

Il n'est pas certain que tous les docteurs turcs savent comment se protéger, que les fermiers roumains peuvent se débarrasser des carcasses infectées adéquatement ou que le gouvernement français pourrait gérer efficacement une pandémie. Les politiques, la communauté médicale, les sociétés de transport, les vétérinaires et les agriculteurs doivent se concerter, indique Fadela Chaib. "Ça ne se fait pas en quelques semaines."

Et même si la grippe aviaire disparaît aussi vite qu'elle est apparue, les systèmes de surveillance mis en

place seront utiles, ajoute-t-elle. "Ça va servir pour toutes les maladies. Pour découvrir des cas de lèpre, de syphilis ou de polio, par exemple."

Depuis 2003, 147 cas humains de grippe aviaire H5N1, dont 76 morts, ont été confirmés en laboratoire. Ils sont presque tous recensés en Asie. L'OMS craint toujours que le virus mute pour se répandre plus facilement.

Illustration(s) :

En Turquie, une mère pleurait ses trois enfants morts de la grippe aviaire. *BRicard@lesoleil.com*

Reuters;

AP

Les trois enfants ont été inhumés hier.

Catégorie : Actualités

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Santé publique et condition physique; Maladies, traitement et prévention

Taille : Moyen, 358 mots

© 2006 *Le Soleil*. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20060107-LS-0012

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

©

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Actualités, vendredi 13 janvier 2006, p. A3

Un test pour détecter la grippe aviaire

Des chercheurs du CHUL tenteront aussi de prévoir les mutations du virus

Ricard-Châtelain, Baptiste

Des chercheurs du CHUL auraient développé un test qui leur permet de détecter le virus de la grippe aviaire.

"On est prêt, si ça survient ici demain matin, pour le diagnostiquer", affirme le Dr Guy Boivin, titulaire de la nouvelle Chaire de recherche du Canada sur les virus en émergence et la résistance aux antiviraux. Les cas suspects seraient confirmés ou infirmés en moins d'une demi-journée, dit-il.

Maintenant, son équipe veut prévoir les mutations que le virus pourrait subir. Certains changements de forme le rendraient résistant au Tamiflu, le médicament que les États stockent en prévision d'une pandémie, expose M. Boivin.

Mais il ne faut pas entrevoir de menace immédiate dans les travaux des microbiologistes et infectiologues du CHUL. D'ailleurs, le directeur du Centre de recherche en infectiologie, le Dr Michel Bergeron, qualifie encore le danger de "théorique". Pour l'heure, rappelle-t-il, seules les personnes en contact étroit avec les volailles infectées sont malades.

L'excitation de la planète santé se justifie néanmoins, précise le médecin. Il y a toujours eu des virus d'influenza émanant des oiseaux, "mais ce virus de grippe aviaire est nouveau, c'est une mutation".

Aussi, le Dr Boivin est particulièrement inquiet de la multiplication des foyers d'infection en Europe de l'Est. "Dans la plupart de ces pays-là, il n'y a pas de ressources (pour contenir le virus)."

Et le désormais célèbre "H5N1" demeure le candidat numéro un pour une pandémie, insiste-t-il. D'autres variantes de la grippe pourraient franchir la barrière des espèces animales, mais elles sont moins voraces.

D'ailleurs, pour éviter d'autres surprises, la découverte tardive de virus qui essaient de sauter de l'oiseau à l'humain, Guy Boivin entend pister les quelque 200 virus respiratoires connus, dont les 16 familles de grippe. La subvention de 1,9 million \$ collée à sa nouvelle chaire de recherche servira à développer des tests diagnostiques de pointe.

Les animaux aussi

Des tests utilisables tant chez l'humain que les autres animaux et les oiseaux, espère-t-il. Les médecins pourraient, dès lors, voir venir les coups et mieux identifier le mal qui assaille leurs patients.

Au dire du Dr Michel Bergeron, les maladies infectieuses sont la première cause de mortalité dans le monde. Elles tuent 33 % des 56 millions d'humains décédant chaque année.

Les virus respiratoires sont la principale cause de consultation d'un médecin en cabinet, ajoute le Dr Guy Boivin. C'est également la première cause d'absentéisme en hiver.

BRicard@lesoleil.com

Illustration(s) :

Labbé, Erick

Le Dr Guy Boivin, titulaire de la nouvelle Chaire de recherche sur les virus en émergence et la résistance aux antiviraux

Catégorie : Actualités

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Maladies, traitement et prévention; Santé publique et condition physique

Taille : Moyen, 319 mots

© 2006 *Le Soleil*. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20060113-LS-0007

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

©

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Actualités, jeudi 19 janvier 2006, p. A10

Éventuelle pandémie de grippe aviaire au Canada

100 millions \$ pour un antiviral dont on ignore l'efficacité sur l'humain

Il n'existe aucune preuve de l'efficacité du célèbre Tamiflu

Ricard-Châtelain, Baptiste

Les gouvernements canadiens ont acheté pour environ 100 millions \$ de doses de l'antiviral Tamiflu en prévision d'une hypothétique pandémie. Mais il y a un os : personne ne sait s'il est actif chez l'humain contre la grippe aviaire.

Le journal médical *The Lancet* vient de mettre en ligne l'analyse d'une cinquantaine de recherches portant sur les antiviraux et la grippe. Les auteurs italiens et australiens rappellent qu'il n'existe aucune preuve de l'efficacité du célèbre Tamiflu contre le virus H5N1 qui tue en Asie et en Europe de l'Est.

"Les études chez l'humain, il n'y en a pas", confirme le Dr Guy Boivin, titulaire de la chaire de recherche du Canada sur les virus en émergence et la résistance aux antiviraux, sise au CHUL. Pourquoi ? D'abord parce que l'actuel virus de la grippe aviaire est nouveau. Ensuite parce que les individus malades et connus des autorités sont rares. Finalement, parce que même lorsqu'un malade est identifié, il n'est pas certain que le pays où il réside possède du Tamiflu et lui en offre. Résultat, il n'y a aucune donnée fiable disponible.

Alors, pourquoi Ottawa, les provinces et les territoires ont-ils engrangé environ 35 millions de doses de Tamiflu ? "C'est à peu près la seule classe de médicaments dont on dispose, de toute façon. C'est à peu près la seule arme qu'on a", répond Guy Boivin.

D'autres taches sont également apparues sur l'aura du Tamiflu au cours des dernières semaines. Deux ou trois patients asiatiques ont été chargés par une version du virus résistante au médicament.

En plus, des doutes émergent dans la communauté scientifique : même efficace, il n'est pas certain que le Tamiflu pourrait anéantir le virus avant la mort des patients. La grippe aviaire ne tuerait pas autant qu'on le pense, explique le Dr Boivin. Des patients ont plutôt été terrassés par la réaction immunitaire trop vive de leur corps, comme si l'organisme perdait la boule au point de se démolir.

Au moins, lors de tests en laboratoire sur différentes variantes du virus H5N1, des résultats positifs ont été obtenus, note le microbiologiste et infectiologue. Chez les souris, le médicament a défié le virus avec un certain panache. Sauf qu'il a fallu leur administrer des doses plus importantes que prévu et sur une plus longue période, détaille M. Boivin. Les 11 millions de doses acquises par Québec pourraient donc aider beaucoup moins de citoyens qu'on le pense... si pandémie il y a, bien sûr.

BRicard@lesoleil.com

Illustration(s) :

Même efficace, il n'est pas certain que le Tamiflu pourrait anéantir le virus avant la mort des patients.

Catégorie : Actualités

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Maladies, traitement et prévention; Santé publique et condition physique

Taille : Moyen, 335 mots

© 2006 *Le Soleil*. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20060119-LS-0034

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

©

APPENDIX 2:

English Corpus
From
Canadian Press Newswire

[<< Back to Document View](#)[Databases selected:](#) CBCA Current Events

WHO says bird flu problem may take couple of years to contain

Branswell, Helen. Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Feb 9, 2004. pg. n/a

Subjects: Social problems, Health, Politics & government
Classification Codes 9172
Author(s): Branswell, Helen
Publication title: Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Feb 9, 2004. pg. n/a
Source type: Periodical
ProQuest document ID: 548223731
Text Word Count 652
Document URL: <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2088/pqdweb?did=548223731&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=3345&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Abstract (Document Summary)

On the weekend, a Hong Kong-based respiratory medicine specialist working with the WHO said scientists have been "shocked" that the H5N1 virus was killing 70 per cent of people infected during the current outbreak, compared to 33 per cent in a 1997 avian flu outbreak.

[Earl Brown] added that highly virulent viruses - and whether this virus kills 33 or 70 per cent of its victims, it is a highly virulent virus - often don't acquire the ability to spread easily.

While that wouldn't rule out human-to-human transmission in this case, it would be considered a positive sign. Experts fear that if the H5N1 virus reassorts or mates with a human flu virus it could acquire the ability to spread easily among people, triggering an influenza pandemic.

Full Text (652 words)

Copyright Canadian Press Feb 9, 2004

TORONTO (CP) - The World Health Organization's Geneva operations attempted Monday to play down fears that avian influenza might cause unprecedented levels of human deaths if it acquired the ability to spread from human to human.

At the same time, the WHO warned human cases are likely to be found in other countries and said the virus could become endemic in poultry populations in affected parts of Asia.

"There's a sense that this is a long-term problem, that we could be dealing with this for a couple of years," WHO spokesman Dick Thompson said in an interview.

"Clearly there are so many outbreaks over such a broad region that it's not going to be pruned out for awhile. Maybe a year, maybe longer."

On the weekend, a Hong Kong-based respiratory medicine specialist working with the WHO said scientists have been "shocked" that the H5N1 virus was killing 70 per cent of people infected during the current outbreak, compared to 33 per cent in a 1997 avian flu outbreak.

But Thompson, director of communications for the communicable diseases branch, took umbrage with the remark, saying it's impossible at this point to determine what the case fatality rate is.

"And I think that WHO can be taken to task for making that kind of statement," he told The Canadian Press.

To date, officials in Vietnam and Thailand have confirmed a total of 23 human cases, 18 of whom have died. In the 1997 outbreak, there were 18 human cases and six deaths.

But experts know that given the wide geographic scope of this outbreak, and the fact that it may have been going on for months, more cases may have occurred than have come to light. People who did not get sick enough to require hospitalization could easily slip through the public health surveillance net.

"You don't know if you were missing some infections that were sub-clinical _ mild infections," said Earl Brown, a virologist at the University of Ottawa who specializes in the evolution of influenza virulence.

"That's what you really need to know to know what the case fatality is."

Brown added that highly virulent viruses - and whether this virus kills 33 or 70 per cent of its victims, it is a highly virulent virus - often don't acquire the ability to spread easily.

They tend to burrow deep into a host's lungs, where they can do a lot of damage to that person - but don't easily get coughed out onto hands or elevator buttons or other places where they can be passed to the next host, he said.

"They (viruses) need you to be well enough that you walk around, touch people, touch things, spread the virus," he said.

"And if you're too virulent, then you're not going to spread as much."

The WHO also had to backpedal Monday on a statement it issued on the test results from two sisters who may have been the first known cases of human to human spread of the H5N1 virus.

The organization had said Friday that genetic sequences of virus taken from the women showed they were both infected with avian influenza viruses which had not picked up any human genes.

While that wouldn't rule out human-to-human transmission in this case, it would be considered a positive sign. Experts fear that if the H5N1 virus reassorts or mates with a human flu virus it could acquire the ability to spread easily among people, triggering an influenza pandemic.

But the WHO doesn't yet have test results on samples taken from both sisters, Thompson admitted.

"While we thought we had the sequence from both sisters, we only had the sequence from one sister and another Vietnamese case. And the sequencing from the second case is being done this week. The other sister."

Those results will be keenly studied as the second sister is not known to have had any contact with infected fowl.

Copyright © 2006 ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights reserved. Terms and Conditions

Text-only interface

ProQuest

[<< Back to Document View](#)[Databases selected:](#) CBCA Current Events

Public health agency wants to commission vaccine trial for H5N1 avian flu

Branswell, Helen. **Canadian Press NewsWire**. Toronto: Nov 10, 2004. pg. n/a

Subjects: Social problems, Health, Politics & government

Classification Codes 9172

Author(s): Branswell, Helen

Publication title: Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Nov 10, 2004. pg. n/a

Source type: Periodical

ProQuest document ID: 735117061

Text Word Count 842

Document URL: <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2088/pqdweb?did=735117061&sid=3&Fmt=3&clientId=3345&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Abstract (Document Summary)

TORONTO (CP) - Canada's public health agency wants to commission the country's major flu vaccine maker to produce trial batches of a vaccine to protect against the lethal avian strain - known as H5N1 - that experts fear may provoke the next flu pandemic.

"Do not expect companies to do anything that's uncompany-like," says Dr. David Fedson, a retired executive of vaccine giant Aventis Pasteur and an expert in influenza vaccines who has been advocating more such trials.

"I don't think that there's another potential infectious disease threat out there which is in the same league, essentially, as H5N1," says Dr. Keiji Fukuda, a leading flu expert from the U.S. Centres for Disease Control.

Full Text (842 words)

Copyright Canadian Press Nov 10, 2004

TORONTO (CP) - Canada's public health agency wants to commission the country's major flu vaccine maker to produce trial batches of a vaccine to protect against the lethal avian strain - known as H5N1 - that experts fear may provoke the next flu pandemic.

This is just the type of project the World Health Organization is hoping to coax key countries and flu vaccine makers to undertake during a special two-day vaccine summit that begins Thursday in Geneva.

Health officials say a plan to produce the vaccine is under discussion with ID Biomedical, the Vancouver-based company which holds Canada's pandemic flu vaccine contract.

Development of trial batches is not covered by that contract, however. So the agency must ask the federal cabinet to free up several million dollars to commission the work.

"There's a willingness to take this to the decision-makers," says Dr. Frank Plummer, head of the National Microbiology Laboratory which is part of the public health agency.

Plummer says the idea has the backing of agency officials and the ministers to whom they report, but it's not yet clear where cabinet stands.

"It's not a sure thing," he said in an interview Wednesday.

Despite the threat of the H5N1 virus, vaccine makers have been reluctant to begin work on a vaccine they may never be able to sell. The WHO is hoping this meeting will come up with novel ways to entice companies into making trial batches; such plans will almost certainly require funding from governments.

"Do not expect companies to do anything that's uncompany-like," says Dr. David Fedson, a retired executive of vaccine giant Aventis Pasteur and an expert in influenza vaccines who has been advocating more such trials.

"They will want to be paid for their efforts. They will not want to spend a lot of money for products that they'll never sell."

Currently only the U.S. government has ordered trial batches of H5N1 vaccine.

One idea to be floated at the meeting is that H5N1 trial batches, after they are tested for safety and efficacy, could be stockpiled for use at the epicentre - likely Asia - in the early days of a pandemic.

A flu pandemic would be expected to sweep the globe in a matter of months. Experts estimate between a third and a half of the world's population would fall ill and many millions would die.

Using the vaccine in Asia might slow down the initial spread of the virus, buying precious time for the manufacture of the vast quantities of vaccine that will be needed to protect the world's population, says the head of the WHO's influenza program.

Doing this "could be an incentive for vaccine companies to engage in vaccine development because that would create a market," Dr. Klaus Stohr says.

But who would pay to establish the stockpile? "That's the next step," Stohr says.

The WHO and influenza experts have been pressing for the production of trial batches of H5N1 vaccine, which would be used to answer questions critical to pandemic planning.

Those questions include: Would it work? How many doses would be needed to provide protection? What is the smallest possible dose that would induce an adequate immune response? Could adjuvants - chemicals which enhance the activity of the vaccine - be used to stretch scarce supplies?

The Canadian proposal would look at two of those key questions, says Dr. Arlene King, head of immunization and respiratory illnesses at the public health agency.

"We are reviewing a proposal . . . (that) would look at some different dosing strategies as well as potential combination of those doses with an adjuvant," says King, who is attending the Geneva meeting.

In addition to funding there are other hurdles that must be surmounted before the work can go ahead, King says.

Among them: ID Biomedical must upgrade its Ste-Foy, Que., plant to a higher biosecurity level to work with the virus. And governments around the world need to determine who will be on the hook should problems with a pandemic vaccine lead to lawsuits down the road.

Flu experts say the time to work out these issues is now given the menacing and persistent nature of the H5N1 virus, which several Asian countries have tried - and failed - to eradicate.

"What we might face is a gigantic catastrophe. And what we ought to be trying to do is to turn that gigantic catastrophe into an ordinary disaster," Fedson says.

"That would be a laudable human goal."

In addition to killing untold millions of chickens, H5N1 has shown an astonishing capacity to infect and sometimes kill several mammalian species previously thought not to be susceptible to a bird virus: domestic cats, mice, tigers

and leopards.

There have been 44 known human cases of H5N1 influenza this year, in Vietnam and Thailand; 32 of those people have died.

"I don't think that there's another potential infectious disease threat out there which is in the same league, essentially, as H5N1," says Dr. Keiji Fukuda, a leading flu expert from the U.S. Centres for Disease Control.

Copyright © 2006 ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights reserved. [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Text-only interface](#)

ProQuest

[<< Back to Document View](#)[Databases selected:](#) CBCA Current Events

Military intelligence warns that avian flu could be used as weapon: report

Branswell, Helen. Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Mar 8, 2005. pg. n/a

Subjects: Social problems, Health, Government, Politics
Classification Codes 9172
Author(s): Branswell, Helen
Document types: News
Publication title: Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Mar 8, 2005. pg. n/a
Source type: Periodical
ProQuest document ID: 806393441
Text Word Count 809
Document URL: <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2088/pqdweb?did=806393441&sid=4&Fmt=3&cli entId=3345&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Abstract (Document Summary)

It notes a method called "passaging," while not entirely predictable, could be a "potentially highly effective" way to push a virus to develop virulence.

"There's a good chance that you'd make something that just would burn out. It just wouldn't spread very well."

The report says factors such as the region's inability to eradicate the virus and influenza's propensity to mutate rapidly "raises the possibility that a novel strain capable of efficient human-to-human transmission may arise in the near future, threatening Canadian operations worldwide."

Full Text (809 words)

Copyright Canadian Press Mar 8, 2005

TORONTO (CP) - The military's intelligence arm has warned the federal government that avian influenza could be used as a weapon of bioterrorism, a heavily censored report suggests.

It also reveals that military planners believe a naturally occurring flu pandemic may be imminent.

The report, entitled *Recent Human Outbreaks of Avian Influenza and Potential Biological Warfare Implications*, was obtained under the Access to Information Act by The Canadian Press.

It was prepared by the J2 Directorate of Strategic Intelligence, a secretive branch of National Defence charged with producing intelligence for the government.

The report outlines in broad terms the methods that could be used to develop a manmade strain of influenza capable of triggering a human flu pandemic.

It notes a method called "passaging," while not entirely predictable, could be a "potentially highly effective" way to push a virus to develop virulence.

"Such forced antigenic shifts could be attempted in a biological weapons program," says the 15-page report, dated Dec. 8, 2004.

Passaging involves the repeated cycling of strains of a virus through generations of a species of animals or through

cell culture. The process can be used to either ratchet up or dial down the virulence of a virus, depending on which of the ensuing offspring - the mild or the severe - are selected in each cycle for the next passage.

There is debate in the community of infectious disease experts whether influenza would make a good bioterrorism agent. For one thing, once released, the virus would not discriminate between friend or foe. Terrorists and their supporters would be as likely to fall ill and die as those they hoped to target.

But if the ultimate goal is panic, social disruption and economic losses, influenza would be a good choice, says Dr. Brian Ward, a virologist at McGill University in Montreal.

"To me it's one of the most logical viruses to use. It doesn't have to be a really bad one to throw a huge wrench," Ward said.

"I mean, if you want to hurt the world's economy, that's an awfully good way."

Canada estimates the direct and indirect health-care costs alone of a mild flu pandemic would range from \$10 billion to \$24 billion. That doesn't start to count societal costs such as lost productivity because of mass illness or the impact on vulnerable industries such as airlines and tourism or the insurance sector that would be hit with business losses and death claims.

But influenza expert Dr. Earl Brown suggests that while flu makes a good theoretical bioterror agent, the reality of these "delicate" viruses is that the task would be harder than it appears.

"Flu is a wimpy virus, which I think is the one knock against it. It doesn't persist in the environment (outside a human) very long," says Brown, a University of Ottawa scientist who specializes in the evolution of influenza viruses.

"You have to infect people sort of straight away, otherwise it's going to die sitting around the environment."

Brown, who has done expensive work on reassorting or mating flu viruses, says any virus bred to spread would have to meet several key criteria: it would need to jump the species barrier and have the ability both to transmit easily and cause severe disease if it did.

"If you want to see chaos and mayhem and you're not concerned about the backlash, then you just have to get to the biology. And right now nobody can do it," Brown says.

"There's a good chance that you'd make something that just would burn out. It just wouldn't spread very well."

The report also raises the spectre of a pandemic strain engineered in a laboratory using reverse genetics. That technically challenging process allows scientists to custom tailor a flu virus, taking genes from a virulent but not highly transmissible strain, for instance, and melding them with genes from a virus that transmits well from person to person.

The report notes this is a technique scientists have been using to try to decipher why the virus that caused the Spanish flu of 1918-1919 was so deadly. That pandemic, which may have claimed upwards of 50 million lives worldwide, was the worst in known history.

"It is feared that this process could be copied . . . to produce a human viral strain similar to the 1918-1919 pandemic," the report says.

It also theorizes that a naturally occurring pandemic may be imminent, unless rigorous measures are taken to contain the spread of the H5N1 avian flu strain that has been responsible for more than 45 deaths in Southeast Asia in the last 14 months.

The report says factors such as the region's inability to eradicate the virus and influenza's propensity to mutate rapidly "raises the possibility that a novel strain capable of efficient human-to-human transmission may arise in the near future, threatening Canadian operations worldwide."

[<< Back to Document View](#)

Databases selected: CBCA Current Events

Experts worry changes mean avian flu becoming better at infecting people

Branswell, Helen. **Canadian Press NewsWire**. Toronto: May 1, 2005. pg. n/a

Subjects: Social problems, Health, Government, Politics

Classification Codes 9172

Author(s): Branswell, Helen

Document types: News

Publication title: Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: May 1, 2005. pg. n/a

Source type: Periodical

ProQuest document ID: 833291701

Text Word Count 896

Document URL: <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2088/pqdweb?did=833291701&sid=5&Fmt=3&clientId=3345&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Abstract (Document Summary)

"They're real changes of biology but it's the relevance that I can't really give you any inkling of, really. Other than generalities: Keep this virus out of people"

"If the mortality is going down, that's a change. And if there's more . . . contacts getting infected, that's a change," [Earl Brown] says.

"Is it the beginning of a trend? That's a question without an answer. Is it good? Well, it's not good per se, but it's not bad per se. You don't know where it's going to go."

Full Text (896 words)

Copyright Canadian Press May 1, 2005

TORONTO (CP) - Ominous changes in the behaviour and the makeup of the H5N1 avian influenza virus in northern Vietnam has the flu world worried the virus may be getting better at infecting humans.

In recent months the virus has sparked increasing numbers of small clusters of cases, suggesting more frequent occurrences of limited person-to-person spread. As well, it appears not to be killing as many of its human hosts - a biological change that cannot be assumed to be an entirely positive sign.

"Both of those observations, if they're true, might indicate that the virus is evolving to be a more efficient human pathogen. A more effective human pathogen," says Dr. Scott Dowell, the senior official in Southeast Asia for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

"We've been following that very, very closely and continue to be quite concerned that that may be the case (But) there is frank scientific uncertainty about what it really means."

Dowell is director of the CDC's international emerging infections program based in Thailand.

He has been heavily involved in tracking the progress of the avian flu virus since December 2003, when outbreaks ignited in poultry flocks throughout the region and started jumping with disturbing frequency into humans.

Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia have reported 88 human cases of H5N1 infection to the World Health Organization since then. Of those, 51 people died.

Dowell, a man who measures his words with care, admits he is more concerned about the threat posed by H5N1 now than he was six months or a year ago.

The apparent changes to the pattern of human infections and an observed change in the molecular makeup of the few virus samples that have emerged from Vietnam this year account for his rising concern.

"The little (molecular) information that we have - and it's from a handful of isolates that have come out of Vietnam - is also concerning," Dowell said in an interview from Bangkok.

"What I'm hearing is concern that's paralleling the concern about the change in (disease) epidemiology."

While the level of unease is mounting, flu watchers know they understand so little about how pandemic strains evolve that they are incapable of judging whether these changes indicate H5N1 is making the final push toward pandemic strain status, or is setting off down a viral detour.

"That's the problem. You can sort of see it happening, but our predictive power is so crappy that even when you see it happening you don't know what the next step is, unfortunately," says Dr. Earl Brown, a virologist at the University of Ottawa who specializes in influenza evolution.

"They're real changes of biology but it's the relevance that I can't really give you any inkling of, really. Other than generalities: Keep this virus out of people"

Brown admits his interest was piqued when he heard reports that the fatality rate in Vietnam was dropping.

That type of the observation may only mean that Vietnam has gotten better at finding less severe H5N1 cases that previously flew under the radar. Or it could signify that the avian virus has undergone a real change that has put it on a path to becoming a human one.

"If the mortality is going down, that's a change. And if there's more . . . contacts getting infected, that's a change," Brown says.

"Is it the beginning of a trend? That's a question without an answer. Is it good? Well, it's not good per se, but it's not bad per se. You don't know where it's going to go."

Virology doctrine suggests that in order to become an effective and transmissible human pathogen, H5N1 would have to trade in some of its virulence cards. Highly virulent viruses don't spread very well. Dead hosts are dead ends.

That tradeoff could occur through reassortment - a process in which an avian virus and either a human or a swine flu virus swap genetic material. But it could also occur through a series of small evolutionary steps, each of which makes the virus better equipped to survive in people.

"You get one good mutation which then sweeps through the population because all the viruses with that mutation grow better," Brown explains.

"And then you can get another mutation on top of that and maybe another gene which gives you a leg up and that sweeps through the population. And then those become the dominant viruses."

That may be the process that is occurring now.

But the head of the WHO's global influenza program says there is simply too little information coming out of Vietnam to accurately assess what is going on with H5N1.

"We do perhaps see changes in age groups. We see perhaps changes in clusters. But what that means is absolutely unclear without having any more complex information," Dr. Klaus Stohr says from Geneva.

To know whether a new, more transmissible strain is emerging, researchers would have to be able to match isolates to case information - to see, for instance, if cases infected with viruses that had a specific mutation were more likely to happen in clusters. But that level of detail has not been emerging from Vietnam, Stohr says.

"There are too few viruses. No link between clinical data, disease outcome data and the genetic changes. And therefore drawing any conclusion on that very incomplete information is absolutely (impossible)."

Copyright © 2006 ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights reserved. [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Text-only interface](#)

ProQuest

[« Back to Document View](#)[Databases selected:](#) CBCA Current Events

Flu pandemic could trigger second Great Depression, brokerage warns clients

Branswell, Helen. Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Aug 16, 2005. pg. n/a

Subjects: Health, Business, Government, Politics
Classification Codes 9172
Author(s): Branswell, Helen
Document types: News
Publication title: Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Aug 16, 2005. pg. n/a
Source type: Periodical
ProQuest document ID: 884339361
Text Word Count 639
Document URL: <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2088/pqdweb?did=884339361&sid=7&Fmt=3&clientId=3345&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Abstract (Document Summary)

"I think that this particular report really signifies the first time that anyone from within the financial world, when looking at this issue, kind of had one of those 'Oh my God' moments," said Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota.

"It is a big, big issue. I mean, it's almost imponderable," she said. "I have to admit: the more research I did, the more frightened I became."

"We wouldn't want everyone to go running out and dump all their investments and bury cash in their mattresses, because it would only accelerate the crisis - at least the financial crisis. But I don't believe people would do that anyway," [Sherry Cooper] said.

Full Text (639 words)

Copyright Canadian Press Aug 16, 2005

TORONTO (CP) - A major Canadian brokerage firm has added its voice to those warning of the potential global impact of an influenza pandemic, suggesting it could trigger a crisis similar to that of the Great Depression.

Real estate values would be slashed, bankruptcies would soar and the insurance industry would be decimated, a newly released investor guide on avian influenza warns clients of BMO Nesbitt Burns.

"It's quite analogous to the Great Depression in many ways, although obviously caused by very different reasons," co-author Sherry Cooper, chief economist of the firm and executive vice-president of the BMO Financial Group, said in an interview Tuesday.

"We won't have 30-per-cent unemployment because frankly, many people will die. And there will be excess demand for labour and yet, at the same time, it will absolutely crunch the economy worldwide."

A leading voice for pandemic preparedness said the report is evidence the financial and business sectors - which have been slow to twig to the implications of a flu pandemic - are finally realizing why public health and infectious disease experts have been sounding the alarm.

"I think that this particular report really signifies the first time that anyone from within the financial world, when looking at this issue, kind of had one of those 'Oh my God' moments," said Michael Osterholm, director of the

Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota.

"The financial world is finally waking up to the fact that this could be the boulder in the gear of the global economy," he said, suggesting a pandemic could trigger an implosion of international trade unlike anything seen in modern history.

"All the other catastrophes we've had in the world in recent years at the very most put screen doors on our borders. This would seal shut a six-inch steel door," Osterholm said.

Cooper, a highly influential figure in the Canadian financial sector, wrote the report with Donald Coxe, a global portfolio strategist for BMO Financial Group.

They warn investors the economic fallout out of a pandemic would inflict pain across sectors and around the globe.

Airlines would be grounded, transport of goods would cease, the tourism and hospitality sectors would evaporate and the impact on exports would be devastating, Cooper wrote.

"This would trigger foreclosures and bankruptcies, credit restrictions and financial panic," she warned, suggesting investors reduce debt and risk in their portfolios to be on the safe side.

The World Health Organization and public health leaders have been warning for some time that the world may be on the verge of a pandemic, the first since 1968. Adding considerably to their concern is the fact that the strain they fear will trigger a pandemic, the H5N1 avian flu ravaging poultry flocks of Southeast Asia, is highly virulent.

Even if a pandemic were mild, it is estimated that about a third of the world's population would fall sick over a period of months and millions would die. If the strain is virulent, the toll could mount to scores of millions of deaths, over a period of only 18 to 24 months.

Cooper reminded investors of the economic devastation SARS wreaked on affected cities or countries, including Toronto. But even with that fresh experience to draw from, she admitted it was hard to envisage how widespread the implications of a flu pandemic might be.

"It is a big, big issue. I mean, it's almost imponderable," she said. "I have to admit: the more research I did, the more frightened I became."

Still, she urged investors to embrace prudence, not succumb to panic.

"We wouldn't want everyone to go running out and dump all their investments and bury cash in their mattresses, because it would only accelerate the crisis - at least the financial crisis. But I don't believe people would do that anyway," Cooper said.

Copyright © 2006 ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights reserved. [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Text-only interface](#)

ProQuest

[<< Back to Document View](#)Databases selected: CBCA Current Events

Sales of key antiviral drug soar as awareness of flu pandemic potential rises

Branswell, Helen. Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Aug 21, 2005. pg. n/a

Subjects: Social problems, Health, Business
Classification Codes 9172
Product Names: Oseltamivir
Author(s): Branswell, Helen
Document types: News
Publication title: Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Aug 21, 2005. pg. n/a
Source type: Periodical
ProQuest document ID: 887773021
Text Word Count 984
Document URL: <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2088/pqdweb?did=887773021&sid=8&Fmt=3&clientId=3345&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Abstract (Document Summary)

"I think that what's going to happen is ... that this drug - which has yet to really be demonstrated to have any clinical impact on H5N1 infection - is now going to become the 'I can't get product, therefore I must have it right away product.'

"Frankly I don't want to be going to a doctor's office if this thing hits. And I sure don't want to be going into a crowded pharmacy."

"It's a management strategy. It's a health care approach that isn't unique," says [Fred Aoki], noting a number of prescription drugs are given to patients on an as-needed basis, such as antiviral creams for cold sores and nitroglycerin for angina.

"I think that what's going to happen is ... that this drug - which has yet to really be demonstrated to have any clinical impact on H5N1 infection - is now going to become the 'I can't get product, therefore I must have it right away product.'

"Frankly I don't want to be going to a doctor's office if this thing hits. And I sure don't want to be going into a crowded pharmacy."

"It's a management strategy. It's a health care approach that isn't unique," says [Fred Aoki], noting a number of prescription drugs are given to patients on an as-needed basis, such as antiviral creams for cold sores and nitroglycerin for angina.

"I think that what's going to happen is ... that this drug - which has yet to really be demonstrated to have any clinical impact on H5N1 infection - is now going to become the 'I can't get product, therefore I must have it right away product.'

"Frankly I don't want to be going to a doctor's office if this thing hits. And I sure don't want to be going into a crowded pharmacy."

"It's a management strategy. It's a health care approach that isn't unique," says [Fred Aoki], noting a number of prescription drugs are given to patients on an as-needed basis, such as antiviral creams for cold sores and nitroglycerin for angina.

"I think that what's going to happen is ... that this drug - which has yet to really be demonstrated to have any clinical impact on H5N1 infection - is now going to become the 'I can't get product, therefore I must have it right away product.'

"Frankly I don't want to be going to a doctor's office if this thing hits. And I sure don't want to be going into a crowded pharmacy."

"It's a management strategy. It's a health care approach that isn't unique," says [Fred Aoki], noting a number of prescription drugs are given to patients on an as-needed basis, such as antiviral creams for cold sores and nitroglycerin for angina.

Full Text (984 words)

Copyright Canadian Press Aug 21, 2005

TORONTO (CP) - North American sales of the drug oseltamivir have more than tripled in recent months, a trend public health experts see as evidence individuals are stockpiling the once little-used antiviral as a hedge against a possible flu pandemic.

With similar reports emerging in other countries as well, a leading advocate for pandemic preparedness is concerned public demand could soon outstrip the limited global supply.

"We are on a collision course to panic," warns Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota.

"I think that what's going to happen is ... that this drug - which has yet to really be demonstrated to have any clinical impact on H5N1 infection - is now going to become the 'I can't get product, therefore I must have it right away product.'

"The reality is going to come through that there is only so much available."

H5N1 is the avian flu strain experts fear may be poised to trigger a pandemic. It has been decimating poultry stocks and infecting small numbers of people in Southeast Asia for the last 20 months and recently spread to parts of Russia.

Swiss drug maker Roche won't say how much oseltamivir - sold as Tamiflu - it can make. But the company insists individuals don't draw from the same pool as the lengthening queue of governments placing stockpile orders.

"We allocate seasonal use product based on forecasted figures and have separate pandemic supply," Roche Canada spokesperson Leigh Funston explained by email.

Canadian Tamiflu sales jumped to more than 76,000 prescriptions in the 12-month period ending in June, compared to 22,000 prescriptions in the entire 2004 calendar year, says IMS Health, which compiles drug sales data.

U.S. sales have surged as well, to nearly 1.7 million prescriptions in the first half of 2005 from just under 500,000 in 2004.

Public health officials are torn over what advice to give on the issue of personal stockpiling. Many are uncomfortable with the notion, but understand that planning for a virulent flu pandemic may mean departing from traditional models of care delivery.

Dr. David Butler-Jones, Canada's chief medical health officer, rhymes off a long list of reasons why people should think hard before laying in antivirals.

It's not clear the H5N1 strain will cause a pandemic, or that the drug will be effective if it does. Stockpiled drugs might pass their expiry date before a pandemic starts. People might confuse a cold with the flu and waste

irreplaceable drug. There may be side-effects that haven't yet come to light because the drug has not been widely used.

But Butler-Jones stops short of asking Canadians not to stockpile Tamiflu, which costs about \$60 for one course of 10 pills.

He admits antiviral experts advising the country's pandemic planning committee are working on a recommendation for the public on stockpiling.

"I think most of us recognize the pluses and minuses. The challenge is: What's the saw-off?" notes Butler-Jones, who says he has not stockpiled Tamiflu for himself or his family.

"My personal recommendation would be: No, I wouldn't rush out and do anything about it. But stay tuned. Things may change."

Andrew and Emma aren't waiting for an official go-ahead. Like many who follow developments with H5N1 through Internet bulletin boards and flu blogs, they fear it's now or never with this drug.

Neither wants to be identified by their real name and Andrew asks that the name of the Prairie community he lives in be withheld.

"I thought it would be best to get in early," says Andrew, 41, who has bought Tamiflu from three separate Internet pharmacies.

"I basically look at it from the point of view that the government is not going to be able to take care of everyone. And so you're on your own."

Canada currently has about 22.5 million pills stockpiled, enough to treat nearly eight per cent of the population. It's estimated between a quarter and a third of people will fall ill if a pandemic hits.

Emma, 53, wants to avoid the higher cost and unknown expiry dates associated with buying the drug over the Internet. She plans to ask her doctor - and then her husband's doctor, if she has to.

The Toronto woman thinks squirreling away a little oseltamivir is simply prudent at this point.

"Frankly I don't want to be going to a doctor's office if this thing hits. And I sure don't want to be going into a crowded pharmacy."

Dr. Fred Aoki, an antiviral expert at the University of Manitoba, sees little wrong with the idea of individuals putting aside a cache of antivirals, as long as they learn how to properly use the drugs, which he believes are very safe.

"It's a management strategy. It's a health care approach that isn't unique," says Aoki, noting a number of prescription drugs are given to patients on an as-needed basis, such as antiviral creams for cold sores and nitroglycerin for angina.

Oseltamivir blocks flu viruses from spreading throughout the respiratory tract. If started early - within 48 hours of symptom onset - the drug can cut the length and severity of a bout of regular flu.

Lab testing suggests it is effective against all subtypes of influenza. But to date there are few data on its performance in human cases of H5N1.

Dr. Keiji Fukuda of the World Health Organization believes the drug will be helpful during a pandemic, but it isn't a panacea.

"They're not a silver bullet," Fukuda, a leading flu expert, said from Geneva.

He isn't wholly comfortable with the idea of large numbers of people hoarding the drug and using it without medical guidance.

"There are no good guidelines that I know of when people at home should take out a stock of medication and just treat themselves or treat their family," he says. "It really is pretty unknown territory."

Copyright © 2006 ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights reserved. [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Text-only interface](#)

ProQuest


[« Back to Document View](#)
[Databases selected:](#) CBCA Current Events

Pandemic would drop global GDP growth 2-to-6 percentage points: economist

Perkins, Tara. Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Mar 13, 2006. pg. n/a

Subjects: Economic conditions, Business

Classification Codes 9172

Author(s): Perkins, Tara

Document types: News

Publication title: Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Mar 13, 2006. pg. n/a

Source type: Periodical

ProQuest document ID: 1004940151

Text Word Count 696

Document URL: <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2088/pqdweb?did=1004940151&sid=9&Fmt=3&clientId=3345&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Abstract (Document Summary)

It also said that "a severe pandemic could pose risks to the global financial system." Risk-averse investors would boost demand for liquidity, cash and low-risk assets. The "flight to quality" would cause declines in asset prices and widening credit spreads, the IMF said. Commodity prices would fall, but that could be offset by potential supply disruptions for key commodities like oil.

[Sherry Cooper] noted that the current characteristics of the roughly 200 human cases of H5N1 to date show "a meaningful similarity to the severe 1918 flu virus."

"People cannot contract H5N1 by eating fully cooked chicken and poultry products. Nevertheless, poultry demand has fallen sharply in Europe," Cooper wrote.

Full Text (696 words)

Copyright Canadian Press Mar 13, 2006

TORONTO (CP) - An avian flu pandemic would take a two to six percentage point bite out of global economic growth, bank economist Sherry Cooper said in a report released Monday.

It could also cause birth rates to plunge and result in an older population, leading to sustained labour shortages, the report said.

As experts watch the bird flu spread, Cooper, the chief economist at BMO Nesbitt Burns, has been rallying Bay Street and investors to prepare for a possible pandemic.

On Monday, she released her third report looking at the potential economic impacts. It came as the International Monetary Fund released a study which said that: "If the pandemic is severe, the economic impact is likely to be significant, though predictions are subject to a high degree of uncertainty."

The IMF said the pandemic's impact will depend on its attack and fatality rates, its duration, the preparedness of households and companies, and the capacity and preparedness of health-care systems.

"A pandemic similar to the 1918 Spanish flu could result in high level(s) of illness and death, and a sharp but only temporary decline in global economic activity," the IMF said.

It also said that "a severe pandemic could pose risks to the global financial system." Risk-averse investors would boost demand for liquidity, cash and low-risk assets. The "flight to quality" would cause declines in asset prices and widening credit spreads, the IMF said. Commodity prices would fall, but that could be offset by potential supply disruptions for key commodities like oil.

"Market operations could become more disorderly in the case of a breakdown in the trading infrastructure, leading to limited or intermittent trading," the IMF added.

In Cooper's report, she predicts that a mild pandemic would reduce annual gross domestic product growth by two percentage points, while a severe pandemic - similar to the 1918 Spanish flu - would reduce global GDP growth by six percentage points.

With current global growth forecasts of about four per cent in 2006, a mild pandemic would not be enough to cause a formal recession in the United States or Canada, but a severe pandemic would push the global economy to contract for the first time since the Second World War, Cooper said.

Cooper noted that the current characteristics of the roughly 200 human cases of H5N1 to date show "a meaningful similarity to the severe 1918 flu virus."

The cases appear to have the highest death rates among 15-to-40 year olds, rather than the very old or very young.

"This results from a cytokine storm, where the immune system not only attacks the virus, but in the process, damages lung, brain and other tissue," Cooper wrote.

"If there were a cytokine storm, as in 1918, pregnant women and 15-to-40 year olds would be proportionately the hardest hit."

That would have a lasting impact on demographics and economic activity around the world.

"Birth rates would plunge and the average age of the population would increase significantly," Cooper said.

There would be sustained labour shortages, and demand for housing, cars, electronics and other durable goods would drop, she added.

"Consumption growth, in general, would be slower and government and private pension plans would risk a fairly rapid insolvency."

While the effects of a possible pandemic remain largely theoretical, Cooper noted that poultry producers are already suffering.

"Even though avian flu is spreading rapidly in the bird population, it is still extremely difficult for humans to become infected," Cooper wrote. Human infection usually comes from direct exposure to sick or dead birds.

"People cannot contract H5N1 by eating fully cooked chicken and poultry products. Nevertheless, poultry demand has fallen sharply in Europe," Cooper wrote.

Effects will begin to be felt by poultry-feed growers, poultry processors, grocers and restaurants, she said, especially those specializing in chicken - including KFC, Swiss Chalet, St. Hubert, Church's and Kenny Rogers Roasters.

"The Canadian poultry industry is, in general, little dependent on exports or imports, but new provincial rules forcing the confinement of birds make the practice of free-range raising more difficult," Cooper said.

She added that the three largest poultry companies in Canada are Lilydale Poultry Co-op, Maple Leaf Poultry (TSX:MFI), and Maple Lodge Poultry.

[« Back to Document View](#)[Databases selected:](#) CBCA Current Events

As public tunes in to pandemic threat, officials worry risk nuances lost

Branswell, Helen. Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Mar 19, 2006. pg. n/a

Subjects: Social problems, Health, Government, Politics

Classification Codes 9172

Companies: World Health Organization

Author(s): Branswell, Helen

Document types: News

Publication title: Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Mar 19, 2006. pg. n/a

Source type: Periodical

ProQuest document ID: 1009327111

Text Word Count 926

Document URL: <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2088/pqdweb?did=1009327111&sid=11&Fmt=3&clientId=3345&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Abstract (Document Summary)

"If H5 doesn't make it into a pandemic - and I don't want H5 to make it into a pandemic - but if the virus doesn't make it that somehow people will feel betrayed by all the publicity that was given to the virus."

"But I don't think that that's a big gamble as long as people understand exactly what we're saying. And it's not a bumper-sticker statement. It's a complicated statement. And that is: 'We don't know what the next pandemic is going to look like or how bad it's going to be. But there will be a pandemic and if you prepare for it you can reduce the damage.' "

"I think it's a very legitimate concern," says [Michael Osterholm], who has been one of the most vocal proponents for pandemic preparedness. "And unfortunately for those of us who have been trying to bring the world to a much higher state of preparedness for pandemic influenza, we have to live often by an eight-word or nine-second sound bite out of a much larger comprehensive message."

Full Text (926 words)

Copyright Canadian Press Mar 19, 2006

A year ago, H5N1 avian flu was ripping through Asian poultry flocks and sparking frequent - and too often fatal - human infections in Vietnam. International health authorities worried that a largely oblivious world might be sleepwalking toward disaster.

Few are ignoring the persistent and virulent virus now. But with awareness mounting and fear surging, some of the people who earlier sounded the alarm are wondering if it's time to adjust the volume - or at least fine-tune the channel.

Some express concern that nuances of the actual risk are being lost as the virus continues its flight across Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

Dick Thompson, the World Health Organization's spokesperson on the issue, worries people have come to - or have been led to - the conclusion that a pandemic arising from this strain of avian influenza is inevitable.

"When we initially started talking about this and to today, we were always saying: We don't know if H5 is going to be the virus, we don't know if it is going to be a bad pandemic, when it will strike, any of that stuff," Thompson says from Geneva.

"All of that seems to me now lost. It seems to me that in everything I'm reading, it's a lock."

Flu virologist Adolfo Garcia-Sastre, who remains skeptical that H5N1 will become a pandemic virus, voices similar concerns. He worries people will become complacent about influenza if this threat subsides.

"This is something I'm a little bit afraid of," Garcia-Sastre says from New York, where he works at Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

"If H5 doesn't make it into a pandemic - and I don't want H5 to make it into a pandemic - but if the virus doesn't make it that somehow people will feel betrayed by all the publicity that was given to the virus."

Thompson's fear is that people will lose faith in public health authorities if the public overlooks the caveats attached to the warning messages.

"We earned a lot of trust during SARS and we could blow it all on H5N1," he says of the WHO.

"But I don't think that that's a big gamble as long as people understand exactly what we're saying. And it's not a bumper-sticker statement. It's a complicated statement. And that is: 'We don't know what the next pandemic is going to look like or how bad it's going to be. But there will be a pandemic and if you prepare for it you can reduce the damage.'"

In many respects, the timing of such qualms seems odd. In recent months, the virus has vastly expanded its geographic range, sparking human infections far beyond its original epicentre of Southeast Asia.

After warning for so long that H5N1 is a significant threat, why get cold feet about that message when the virus seems to be proving your point?

Dr. Jody Lanard, a risk communications expert, isn't surprised by the seeming contradiction.

"There is a kind of seesaw of attention between the public and officials," says Lanard.

"When everyone is ignoring the problem, officials focus on raising the alarm. When people finally pay attention and start worrying, the officials instantly want to calm them down again.

"Everybody in the warning business worries that people will accuse them of crying wolf," she adds. "They forget that in the actual Boy Who Cried Wolf story, the wolf finally showed up."

Dr. Michael Osterholm, a favourite target for those who see the warnings about H5N1 are unwarranted, has some sympathy for Thompson's fears. Up to a point.

"I think it's a very legitimate concern," says Osterholm, who has been one of the most vocal proponents for pandemic preparedness. "And unfortunately for those of us who have been trying to bring the world to a much higher state of preparedness for pandemic influenza, we have to live often by an eight-word or nine-second sound bite out of a much larger comprehensive message."

Osterholm readily acknowledges there is no way of knowing what strain will cause the next pandemic or whether H5N1 will become a pandemic strain.

But he frequently warns of the parallels between H5N1 and the influenza strain that triggered the 1918 Spanish Flu - earning the disdain of those who insist the severity of that pandemic could not be replicated in the era of modern medicine.

"I worry that too many policy leaders dance around this issue fearful that somehow they will either offend or frighten the public," says Osterholm, the director of the Center for Infectious Disease Policy and Research at the University of Minnesota.

"Our job is not to upset people or to calm people. Our job is to tell the truth."

The job is also to accelerate preparations for a flu pandemic that will come one day, regardless of the H and N numbers on the eventual pandemic strain's name, says Dr. Keiji Fukuda, head of the WHO's global influenza program.

"We are not magicians. We cannot predict what's going to happen tomorrow. But we can say that there are things that we should be concerned about and there are things that we can do because of those concerns."

Fukuda is not worried about expectations.

"If confidence is built on our ability to predict the short-term future, it is confidence which is misplaced. On the other hand, if it is confidence that these are institutions that are analyzing the situation, looking over it and making recommendations, making moves which really are important moves and good moves, that is why trust should be placed in public health."

Copyright © 2006 ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights reserved. [Terms and Conditions](#)

Text-only interface

ProQuest

[« Back to Document View](#)[Databases selected:](#) CBCA Current Events

Health Canada warns consumers against products to 'protect' against bird flu

Anonymous. Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Mar 28, 2006. pg. n/a

Subjects: Social problems, Health, Retailing industry, Government, Politics
Classification Codes 9172
Product Names: Tamiflu
Author(s): Anonymous
Document types: News
Publication title: Canadian Press NewsWire. Toronto: Mar 28, 2006. pg. n/a
Source type: Periodical
ProQuest document ID: 1012743831
Text Word Count 242
Document URL: <http://proxy.bib.uottawa.ca:2088/pqdweb?did=1012743831&sid=12&Fmt=3&lientId=3345&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Abstract (Document Summary)

"There's no evidence that really shows that it's specifically to Canada that these products are marketed. But they're on the Internet so anyone can go and find them, essentially."

"There's no such thing as a generic Tamiflu and there's no such thing as a cure for the avian flu."

Full Text (242 words)

Copyright Canadian Press Mar 28, 2006

TORONTO (CP) - With avian flu fears taking flight, Health Canada is warning consumers not to fall for the marketing claims of products professing to fight or prevent avian influenza.

"There are currently no products authorized for sale in Canada that are indicated specifically for the treatment of avian flu," the department cautioned in a release Tuesday.

The release noted the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently issued warning letters to nine American companies marketing products - mainly dietary supplements - with labels claiming they could treat or prevent avian flu or other types of influenza.

A spokesperson said Health Canada's warning was not triggered by proof such sales are going on in Canada, but rather that the reality of the Internet means products can be targeted at consumers everywhere.

"It's more of a precautionary approach," Christopher Williams said.

"There's no evidence that really shows that it's specifically to Canada that these products are marketed. But they're on the Internet so anyone can go and find them, essentially."

"There's no such thing as a generic Tamiflu and there's no such thing as a cure for the avian flu."

The department cautioned that consumers should only buy the flu drug Tamiflu with a prescription from a doctor. The drug should only be bought from pharmacies or reputable Internet pharmacies, it said.

It also warned that antibiotics, which treat bacterial ailments, aren't active against any form of influenza, which is caused by a virus.

Copyright © 2006 ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights reserved. [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Text-only interface](#)

ProQuest

APPENDIX 3:

Translated Corpus

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Actualités, mardi 10 février 2004, p. A5

Deux ou trois ans pour venir à bout de la grippe aviaire, dit l'OMS

PC

Toronto - L'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) s'est employée hier à apaiser les craintes d'une pandémie mondiale résultant de la grippe aviaire qui sévit actuellement en Asie. Plusieurs spécialistes ont dit craindre, au cours des dernières semaines, que le virus ne se fonde avec le virus humain de l'influenza, ce qui le rendrait potentiellement dévastateur pour les humains dans le monde.

L'OMS signale cependant que le virus de la grippe aviaire pourrait affecter d'autres humains et qu'il faudra du temps pour endiguer l'épidémie.

"Notre impression, c'est que le problème ne disparaîtra pas rapidement et qu'il faudra deux ou trois ans pour enrayer l'épidémie", a déclaré un porte-parole de l'OMS, Dick Thompson.

En fin de semaine, un spécialiste des maladies respiratoires travaillant pour l'OMS affirmait que les chercheurs étaient surpris de la virulence du virus H5N1, le virus de la grippe aviaire.

Jusqu'à présent, des responsables au Viêt Nam et en Thaïlande ont indiqué que 23 personnes ont été infectées du virus de la grippe aviaire, et que 18 d'entre elles en sont mortes. Mais compte tenu du vaste territoire affecté par le virus et du fait que ce dernier est probablement actif depuis plusieurs mois, il est possible que de nombreux cas n'ont jamais été rapportés, signale M. Thompson, directeur des communications en matière de maladies contagieuses à l'OMS. En outre, nombre de gens ont probablement survécu à la maladie sans avoir été hospitalisés, et tout cela aurait pour effet de fausser les statistiques, ajoute M. Thompson.

Illustration(s) :

Reuter

Un chercheur fait des tests dans un laboratoire de Tsukuba, au Japon.

Catégorie : Actualités

Taille : Court, 199 mots

© 2004 Le Soleil. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20040210-LS-0012

LeDroit

Le Droit

Actualités, jeudi 11 novembre 2004, p. 21

En bref

Ottawa veut des lots d'essai du vaccin contre la grippe aviaire

PC

Toronto - L'Agence de santé publique du Canada veut demander au principal fabricant de vaccins du pays de produire des lots d'essai d'un vaccin contre la souche mortelle du virus de la grippe aviaire, le H5N1, dont les experts croient qu'il pourrait provoquer la prochaine pandémie de grippe.

C'est exactement le type de projet que l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) espère convaincre les pays et les fabricants de vaccins d'entreprendre, au cours d'un sommet spécial de deux jours qui débute jeudi, à Genève, en Suisse.

Les autorités de la santé publique du Canada disent qu'un plan pour la production du vaccin fait présentement l'objet de discussions avec ID Biomedical, la compagnie de Vancouver qui détient le contrat du vaccin contre une pandémie de grippe au Canada.

Catégorie : Actualités

Taille : Court, 98 mots

© 2004 Le Droit. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20041111-LT-0039

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

© 2004 Le Droit. Tous droits réservés.

LeDroit

Le Droit

Actualités, mercredi 9 mars 2005, p. 28

Le virus de la grippe aviaire : une possible arme terroriste

PC

Toronto - Les services de renseignement des Forces armées canadiennes soutiennent dans un rapport fortement censuré que le virus de la grippe aviaire pourrait devenir une arme biologique entre des mains terroristes.

Une copie du rapport obtenu par la *Presse Canadienne* en vertu de la Loi d'accès à l'information signale également qu'une pandémie d'origine naturelle pourrait être imminente.

Effectué pour le compte du J2/Directeur général-Renseignement stratégique, une division secrète de la Défense nationale, le rapport de 15 pages, qui date du 8 décembre 2004, explique en gros comment le virus pourrait être modifié par des terroristes pour déclencher une pandémie chez les humains.

Les experts scientifiques ne sont toutefois pas convaincus de l'utilité d'un tel virus pour des terroristes, d'abord parce qu'une fois libéré dans la population, plus personne ne serait à l'abri, pas même ceux qui ont déclenché l'épidémie.

Mais si le but recherché était de créer une panique, ou de déstabiliser l'économie, une pandémie de grippe serait un bon moyen pour y arriver, estime le Dr Brian Ward, virologue à l'Université McGill de Montréal.

"Pour moi, ce serait un choix logique. Ça ne serait pas nécessaire de produire le pire des virus pour déclencher le chaos. En fait, si votre objectif est de nuire à l'économie de la planète, ce serait un très bon moyen d'y parvenir."

Au Canada, on estime à entre 10 et 24 milliards \$ les coûts de santé directs et indirects d'une pandémie même mineure. Et ça n'inclut pas les coûts reliés à la perte de productivité, ou l'impact économique sur des industries comme le tourisme et le secteur de l'assurance.

Malgré tout, le Dr Earl Brown, de l'Université d'Ottawa, relativise le danger en signalant qu'il serait plus difficile qu'on pense de déclencher une pandémie de grippe.

"Le virus de la grippe est un virus faible. Il ne survit pas longtemps en dehors de l'organisme humain, explique le scientifique. Si votre objectif est de créer le chaos et la mort, et que vous n'avez pas peur vous-même des conséquences, alors il vous faudra fabriquer le virus en laboratoire. Mais à l'heure actuelle, personne n'en est capable".

Catégorie : Actualités

Taille : Court, 258 mots

LA PRESSE

La Presse

Actualités, lundi 2 mai 2005, p. A9

En bref

La grippe aviaire en pleine mutation

PC

Des mutations inquiétantes de la souche H5N1 de la grippe aviaire dans le nord du Vietnam, constatées tant dans son comportement que dans sa composition, indiquent peut-être que le risque de contagion chez les humains augmente au lieu de diminuer. Au cours des derniers mois, le nombre de petits îlots de contagion causés par ce virus a augmenté, ce qui laisse supposer qu'il est plus facile de le contracter, bien qu'il soit encore possible de limiter sa propagation. Par ailleurs, le taux de mortalité chez les personnes infectées a décliné, mais ce phénomène n'est pas nécessairement un bon signe, étant peut-être attribuable à une mutation biologique.

Catégorie : Actualités

Taille : Bref, 82 mots

© 2005 La Presse. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20050502-LA-0017

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

©

LE DEVOIR

Le Devoir

LES ACTUALITÉS, lundi 2 mai 2005, p. A5

Selon les experts

La grippe aviaire est en pleine mutation biologique

Helen, Branswell

pc

Toronto - Des mutations inquiétantes de la souche H5N1 de la grippe aviaire dans le nord du Vietnam, constatées tant dans son comportement que dans sa composition, indiquent peut-être que le risque de contagion chez les humains augmente au lieu de diminuer.

Au cours des derniers mois, le nombre de petits îlots de contagion causés par ce virus a augmenté, ce qui laisse supposer qu'il est plus facile de le contracter, bien qu'il soit encore possible de limiter sa propagation. Par ailleurs, le taux de mortalité chez les personnes infectées a décliné, mais ce phénomène n'est pas nécessairement un bon signe, étant peut-être attribuable à une mutation biologique.

«Ces deux observations, si elles sont vraies, pourraient indiquer que le virus est en voie de se transformer en agent pathogène encore plus efficace, a déclaré le Dr Scott Dowell, haut fonctionnaire en Asie du Sud-Est pour les Centers for Disease Control des États-Unis. Nous surveillons tout cela de très, très près et nous continuons de tenter déterminer si c'est vraiment le cas. Sur le plan scientifique, il est toutefois difficile de savoir avec certitude ce que tout cela signifie.»

Le Dr Dowell suit la progression du virus de la grippe aviaire depuis le mois de décembre 2003. Au Vietnam, en Thaïlande et au Cambodge, 88 cas d'humains infectés par la souche H5N1 ont été rapportés depuis ce temps à l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé. On a constaté 51 décès.

Le Dr Dowell, un homme qui tient habituellement des propos prudents, reconnaît que la souche H5N1 l'inquiète davantage maintenant qu'il y a six mois ou un an.

Constatées cette année au Vietnam, les mutations apparentes dans le mode de transmission du virus et sa composition moléculaire constituent des motifs d'inquiétude, selon lui.

«Les quelques données que nous avons, qui proviennent d'une petite poignée d'échantillons obtenus au Vietnam, sont inquiétantes, a-t-il dit depuis Bangkok. Ce sont des inquiétudes qui s'ajoutent à celles provoquées par les mutations au point de vue épidémiologique.»

Les experts dans le domaine de la grippe réalisent toutefois qu'ils en savent si peu sur la façon dont ce virus se propage qu'ils sont incapables de prédire si la souche H5N1 s'apprête à devenir plus virulente, ou tout simplement à disparaître. «C'est justement le problème. Nous pouvons voir ce qui se passe, mais notre capacité de prédire la prochaine étape est si médiocre que nous n'avons aucune idée de ce qui nous attend, malheureusement», a affirmé le Dr Earl Brown, un virologue spécialisé dans l'évolution de la grippe à l'Université d'Ottawa.

Catégorie : Actualités

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Maladies, traitement et prévention; Santé publique et condition physique

Type(s) d'article : Article

Taille : Moyen, 310 mots

© 2005 *Le Devoir*. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20050502-LE-80804

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

© 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Le Québec et le Canada, lundi 2 mai 2005, p. A12

La grippe aviaire est en pleine mutation biologique, selon les experts

PC

Toronto - Des mutations inquiétantes de la souche H5N1 de la grippe aviaire dans le nord du Viêtnam, constatées tant dans son comportement que dans sa composition, indiquent peut-être que le risque de contagion chez les humains augmente au lieu de diminuer.

Au cours des derniers mois, le nombre d'îlots de contagion causés par ce virus a augmenté, ce qui laisse supposer qu'il est plus facile de le contracter, bien qu'il soit encore possible de limiter sa propagation. Par ailleurs, le taux de mortalité chez les personnes infectées a décliné, mais ce phénomène n'est pas nécessairement un bon signe, étant peut-être attribuable à une mutation biologique.

"Ces deux observations, si elles sont vraies, pourraient indiquer que le virus est en voie de se transformer en agent pathogène encore plus efficace, a déclaré le Dr Scott Dowell, haut fonctionnaire en Asie du Sud-Est pour les Centers for Disease Control des États-Unis. Nous surveillons tout cela de très, très près et nous continuons de tenter de déterminer si c'est vraiment le cas. Sur le plan scientifique, il est toutefois difficile de savoir avec certitude ce que tout cela signifie."

Le Dr Dowell suit la progression du virus de la grippe aviaire depuis le mois de décembre 2003. Au Viêtnam, en Thaïlande et au Cambodge, 88 cas d'humains infectés par la souche H5N1 ont été rapportés depuis ce temps à l'Organisation mondiale de la santé. On a constaté 51 décès.

Le Dr Dowell, un homme qui tient habituellement des propos prudents, reconnaît que la souche H5N1 l'inquiète davantage maintenant qu'il y a six mois ou un an.

Constatées cette année au Viêtnam, les mutations apparentes dans le mode de transmission du virus et sa composition moléculaire constituent des motifs d'inquiétude, selon lui.

"Les quelques données que nous avons, qui proviennent d'une petite poignée d'échantillons obtenus au Viêtnam, sont inquiétantes, a-t-il dit depuis Bangkok. Ce sont des inquiétudes qui s'ajoutent à celles provoquées par les mutations au point de vue épidémiologique."

Prédictions difficiles

Les experts dans le domaine de la grippe réalisent toutefois qu'ils en savent si peu sur la façon dont ce virus se propage qu'ils sont incapables de prédire si la souche H5N1 s'apprête à devenir plus virulente, ou tout simplement à disparaître.

"C'est justement le problème. Nous pouvons voir ce qui se passe, mais notre capacité de prédire la prochaine étape est si médiocre que nous n'avons aucune idée de ce qui nous attend, malheureusement, a affirmé le Dr Earl Brown, un virologue spécialisé dans l'évolution de la grippe à l'Université d'Ottawa. Il y a de véritables mutations biologiques, mais nous n'avons aucune idée si elles auront un impact ou non.

La seule certitude que nous avons, c'est que moins il y a de gens infectés, mieux c'est."

Catégorie : Politique nationale et internationale

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Maladies, traitement et prévention; Santé publique et condition physique

Taille : Moyen, 334 mots

© 2005 *Le Soleil*. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news·20050502·LS·0034

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

© 2005 Le Soleil. Tous droits réservés.

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Économie, mercredi 17 août 2005, p. C2

Une pandémie de grippe aurait un impact comparable à la Crise de 1929

PC

Toronto - L'impact économique d'une pandémie de grippe pourrait être comparable à la Grande Crise de 1929, selon des analystes de la firme de courtage BMO Nesbitt Burns, qui évoquent le spectre d'une chute de valeur des éléments d'actif immobiliers, d'une forte augmentation du nombre de faillites ainsi que d'un choc pour l'industrie de l'assurance.

"Ce serait comparable à la Grande Crise à bien des égards, même si les causes seraient évidemment différentes", a déclaré en entrevue, hier, l'économiste Sherry Cooper, coauteure de l'étude réalisée pour le bénéfice des clients de BMO Nesbitt Burns.

"Il n'y aurait pas de taux de chômage à 30 %, parce que plusieurs personnes mourraient. Mais même si la demande de main-d'oeuvre serait supérieure à l'offre, l'impact serait terrible pour l'économie mondiale", a-t-elle ajouté.

Michael Osterholm, directeur du Centre de recherche sur les maladies infectieuses à l'Université du Minnesota, croit que cette étude marque le début d'une prise de conscience par le secteur financier de l'impact d'une pandémie de grippe. L'Organisation mondiale de la santé ainsi que des spécialistes en santé publique expriment depuis quelque temps déjà leurs craintes de voir l'éclosion prochaine d'une épidémie mondiale de grippe, qui serait la première depuis 1968. Ils redoutent principalement le virus de la grippe aviaire H5N1, qui sévit présentement en Asie du Sud-Est.

Une grosse pierre

"Le monde de la finance se rend finalement compte que cela pourrait être la grosse pierre dans l'engrenage de l'économie", affirme M. Osterholm.

Il estime qu'une pandémie de grippe aurait un effet dévastateur pour le commerce international.

"Toutes les catastrophes dont nous avons été témoins dans le monde au cours des dernières années ont eu pour effet de dresser des rideaux à nos frontières, précise M. Osterholm. Cela (une pandémie de grippe) équivaldrait plutôt à ériger une porte d'acier de six pouces d'épaisseur."

Dans leur étude, Mme Cooper et son collègue Donald Coxe, gestionnaire de portefeuille pour le Groupe financier BMO, affirment qu'une épidémie mondiale de grippe aurait notamment pour effet de clouer au sol les appareils des transporteurs aériens, de freiner le transport des marchandises et d'anéantir l'industrie du tourisme.

L'impact pour les exportations serait dévastateur, écrit Mme Cooper.

"Il en résulterait des fermetures (d'entreprises) et des faillites, des restrictions pour le crédit et une

panique financière", précise-t-elle, tout en recommandant aux clients de BMO Nesbitt Burns de réduire leur endettement ainsi que le niveau de risque de leur portefeuille.

Les spécialistes en santé publique croient qu'une pandémie de grippe, même modérée, pourrait rendre malade le tiers de la population mondiale en quelques mois à peine, en plus de causer des millions de décès.

Catégorie : Économie

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Maladies, traitement et prévention; Santé publique et condition physique

Taille : Moyen, 337 mots

© 2005 *Le Soleil*. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20050817-LS-0071

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

©

LeDroit

Le Droit

Économie, mercredi 17 août 2005, p. 30

Une pandémie de grippe aurait un impact comparable à la Crise de 1929

PC

Toronto - L'impact économique d'une pandémie de grippe pourrait être comparable à la Grande Crise de 1929, selon des analystes de la firme de courtage BMO Nesbitt Burns, qui évoquent le spectre d'une chute de valeur des actifs immobiliers, d'une forte augmentation du nombre de faillites ainsi que d'un choc pour l'industrie de l'assurance.

"Ce serait comparable à la Grande Crise à bien des égards, même si les causes étaient évidemment différentes", a déclaré en entrevue, hier, l'économiste Sherry Cooper, coauteur de l'étude réalisée pour le bénéfice des clients de BMO Nesbitt Burns.

"Il n'y aurait pas de taux de chômage à 30 %, parce que plusieurs personnes mourraient. Mais même si la demande de main-d'oeuvre est supérieure à l'offre, l'impact serait terrible pour l'économie mondiale", a-t-elle ajouté.

Michael Osterholm, directeur du Centre de recherche sur les maladies infectieuses à l'Université du Minnesota, croit que cette étude marque le début d'une prise de conscience par le secteur financier de l'impact d'une pandémie de grippe. L'Organisation mondiale de la santé ainsi que des spécialistes en santé publique expriment depuis quelque temps déjà leurs craintes de voir l'éclosion prochaine d'une épidémie mondiale de grippe, qui serait la première depuis 1968. Ils redoutent principalement le virus de la grippe aviaire H5N1, qui sévit présentement en Asie du Sud-Est.

"Le monde de la finance se rend finalement compte que cela pourrait être la grosse pierre dans l'engrenage de l'économie", affirme M. Osterholm.

Les spécialistes en santé publique croient qu'une pandémie de grippe, même modérée, pourrait rendre malade le tiers de la population mondiale en quelques mois à peine, en plus de causer des millions de décès.

Catégorie : Économie

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Maladies, traitement et prévention; Santé publique et condition physique

Taille : Court, 209 mots

© 2005 *Le Droit*. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20050817-LT-0059

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Actualités, lundi 22 août 2005, p. A6

Grippe aviaire

La peur fait tripler les ventes d'antiviral

PC

Toronto - Les ventes du médicament oseltamivir ont plus que triplé au cours des derniers mois en Amérique du Nord. Les experts en santé publique y voient un signe que des gens accumulent cet antiviral en vue de se protéger contre une possible pandémie de grippe aviaire. Devant les informations faisant état du même phénomène dans d'autres pays, un des plus éminents partisans de la préparation en cas de pandémie dit craindre que la demande n'excède bientôt l'offre mondiale de ce médicament. Le Dr Michael Osterholm, qui dirige le centre pour la recherche sur les maladies infectieuses de l'Université du Minnesota, pense que le médicament, dont on n'a pas encore vraiment démontré l'efficacité contre l'infection par le virus H5N1, va devenir "LE produit difficile à obtenir, et donc LE produit qu'il faut absolument se procurer immédiatement". Et on va se rendre compte qu'il n'y en a pas tant que cela en vente, ajoute-t-il. Le H5N1 est la souche de la grippe aviaire qui pourrait, selon les experts, déclencher une pandémie. En Asie du Sud-Est, la maladie a infecté un petit nombre de personnes au cours des 20 derniers mois.

Catégorie : Actualités

Taille : Court, 141 mots

© 2005 *Le Soleil*. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20050822-LS-0013

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

© 2005 Le Soleil

LA PRESSE

La Presse

Actualités, lundi 22 août 2005, p. A9

Les ventes d'un antiviral augmentent

PC

Les ventes du médicament Oseltamivir ont plus que triplé au cours des derniers mois en Amérique du Nord. Les experts en santé publique y voient un signe que des gens accumulent cet antiviral en vue de se protéger contre une possible pandémie de grippe aviaire. Devant les informations faisant état du même phénomène dans d'autres pays, un des plus éminents partisans de la préparation en cas de pandémie dit craindre que la demande n'excède bientôt l'offre mondiale de ce médicament, qui n'existe qu'en quantité limitée. Le dr Michael Osterholm, qui dirige le centre pour la recherche sur les maladies infectieuses de l'Université du Minnesota, pense que le médicament, dont on n'a pas encore vraiment démontré l'efficacité contre l'infection par le virus H5N1, va devenir " LE produit difficile à obtenir, et qu'il faut absolument se procurer immédiatement ".

Catégorie : Actualités

Taille : Court, 107 mots

© 2005 La Presse. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20050822-LA-0018

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

© 2005 La Presse

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Actualités, lundi 20 mars 2006, p. A4

Grippe aviaire

Des experts craignent d'avoir été mal compris

PC

Toronto - Il y a un an, les avertissements lancés par les experts en santé sur une possibilité de pandémie mondiale résultant d'une mutation de l'influenza aviaire semblaient tomber dans des oreilles de sourds.

Aujourd'hui, alors que tout le monde a bien entendu le message et que les pays de la planète appréhendent le pire, certains experts craignent d'avoir été un peu mal compris.

"En même temps que nous avons lancé nos avertissements sur les risques potentiels du virus H5N1, nous avons aussi précisé que nous ne pouvions prédire la gravité d'une telle pandémie et à quel moment elle frapperait", affirme Dick Thompson, porte-parole de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé sur le virus H5N1.

Selon lui, les gens ont conclu à tort qu'une pandémie humaine résultant d'une mutation de ce virus était inévitable.

"À mon sens, toutes ces nuances ont été perdues dans le message. C'est du moins l'impression que je retire de tout ce que je lis sur le sujet."

Même son de cloche du spécialiste de l'influenza Adolfo Garcia-Sastre, qui s'est toujours dit sceptique sur une mutation du virus H5N1 menant à une pandémie. Selon lui, s'il n'y a pas de pandémie, les gens pourraient ignorer de tels avertissements à l'avenir.

Crédibilité

"J'ai un peu peur de cette réaction, affirme M. Garcia-Sastre. Si le H5 ne produit pas de pandémie, et je ne veux pas qu'il provoque une pandémie, les gens pourraient se sentir trahis par toute la publicité entourant le virus."

"Nous avons gagné beaucoup de crédibilité dans la crise du SRAS (syndrome respiratoire aigu sévère), ajoute M. Thompson, et on pourrait perdre toute cette crédibilité avec le H5N1."

"Cela dit, je ne crois pas que le risque est important si les gens comprennent exactement ce qu'on dit. Et on le répète: nous ne savons pas de quoi aura l'air la prochaine pandémie, ou à quel point elle sera grave. Mais il y aura inévitablement une pandémie et, si nous sommes prêts, nous pourrions réduire son impact."

Curieusement, cette précision survient alors que l'épidémie d'influenza aviaire continue à progresser dans le monde. Après avoir fait de nombreux morts chez des humains infectés par des poulets en Asie, en particulier au Viêtnam, le virus H5N1 a été repéré récemment sur des oiseaux au Moyen-Orient et

dans plusieurs pays d'Europe.

Experte en communications de risque, la Dre Jody Lanard, n'a pas de mal à expliquer cette contradiction apparente. "Les communications entre les experts et la population se font en dents de scie, dit-elle.

Quand les gens ne veulent rien entendre, les experts tirent la sonnette d'alarme encore plus fort. Et quand ils ont finalement l'attention de tout le monde, ils s'évertuent à les calmer."

"Ils ont peur qu'on les accuse de crier au loup, poursuit-elle. Mais dans la fameuse histoire de l'enfant qui criait au loup, il y avait bel et bien un loup à la fin."

Catégorie : Actualités

Sujet(s) uniforme(s) : Maladies, traitement et prévention; Santé publique et condition physique

Taille : Moyen, 362 mots

© 2006 *Le Soleil*. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20060320-LS-0009

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

©

LE SOLEIL

Le Soleil

Actualités, mercredi 29 mars 2006, p. A9

Grippe aviaire Gare aux faux remèdes

PC

Toronto - Alors qu'on craint de jour en jour l'arrivée d'une pandémie humaine provenant d'une mutation du virus de l'influenza du poulet, le ministère fédéral de la Santé avertit les consommateurs de ne pas tomber dans le panneau en achetant des "remèdes" contre cette maladie.

"À l'heure actuelle, il n'existe aucun produit homologué au Canada pour combattre spécifiquement l'influenza du poulet", affirme un communiqué de l'agence publié hier.

L'Administration américaine des aliments et drogues a fait parvenir récemment des lettres d'avertissement à neuf fabricants de suppléments diététiques qui soutiennent que leurs produits peuvent prévenir la grippe aviaire ou tout autre type d'influenza.

Un porte-parole du ministère fédéral de la Santé ajoute qu'il n'y a aucune preuve que de tels produits soient actuellement vendus au Canada. Toutefois, ils pourraient être achetés dans Internet.

"Nous agissons par précaution, affirme Christopher Williams. Le Tamiflu générique, ça n'existe pas et il n'y a pas de cure pour la grippe aviaire." Le ministère précise que les personnes voulant acheter du Tamiflu ne doivent le faire qu'avec une ordonnance de leur médecin.

Enfin, les antibiotiques seraient totalement inefficaces contre des virus, celui de l'influenza aviaire compris.

Catégorie : Actualités
Taille : Court, 150 mots

© 2006 *Le Soleil*. Tous droits réservés.

Doc. : news-20060329-LS-0027

Ce matériel est protégé par les droits d'auteur. Tous droits réservés.

© 2011 ORBIS DIGITAL