

An Analysis of Cultural And Linguistic Problems During Translating from English to Arabic

Nourah Meshary Alsairy

Master degree in Translation.

King Khalid University KSA

Abstract

Throughout history, translation has made linguistic communication between people and one can consider translation a science; practically, it seems intellectual to consider it an art. However, regardless of whether one considers translation as a science, art, or craft, one should bear in mind that a good translation should fulfill the same function in the TL as the original did in the SL. Translation is a creative work, which requires an academic level of knowledge and clever thinking skills. It is about moving the soul of a text into a different body. Therefore, I choose a great book about translation to work on my translation project. *Is That a Fish in Your Ear?* is a book written by David Bellos who shows how much we can learn about ourselves by exploring the ways we use translation, from the historical roots of written language to the stylistic choices of Ingmar Bergman, from the United Nations General Assembly to the significance of James Cameron's *Avatar*. This project presents a translation for four topics from the book. As I discussed some of cultural and linguistic problems to give more analysis and hotspots on it. In the present research, the researcher tries to find out the problems that may face any translator while translating any text from English to Arabic. The methodology used in this research is (Analytical Method) as it helps to search, learn and deduct during the work of translation. In addition, I can consider that I present a fair participation in the translation field.

Keywords: *translation, culture, Arabic, English, ; Terminological Equivalence, Languages.*

Introduction

Translation is the conveyance of written text from one language into another. It communicates between languages,

cultures and nations. The text to be translated is called the source text (ST), and the language it is to be translated into is called the target text(TT). In this project, the SL is English language, and the TL is Arabic language.

Translator must take into account constraints that include context, grammar, idioms and background knowledge. Footnotes are used to discuss some translations issues that appeared in certain places of the translated text. I have chosen four topics from the book, and translated them .In fact I faced many difficulties in translation as the two languages full with powerful structure and vocabulary, but I used some translation strategies to avoid it.

This process helped me to present THE STUDY and the purpose of this thesis in three substantial topics related to translation between Arabic and English.

- 1- The role of translation in bridging the gap between cultures.
- 2- Differences between Arabic and English in Expressive meaning.
- 3- Achieving the Terminological Equivalence in Translation.

The role of translation in bridging the gap between cultures.

An idiom is a distinctive manner of speaking or expressing oneself. It is not grammatically understandable based on the individual meanings of its elements. Culture is important in the process of idiom interpretation. (Abdel Azim ElShiekh , 2012).

In the second half of the twentieth century, Translation Studies (TS) emerged as a distinct academic discipline.

The existence of numerous translation theories demonstrates that the field of translation is multifaceted. Translation can be used to consolidate cultural 'Otherness.' This process may include not only the fixation of dominant ideologies, but also the filtration and blocking of autonomous cultural representational dynamics. (CHENG & KUI SIN, 2008)

Language and culture are interconnected and mutually beneficial disciplines. We live in the twenty-first century, which emphasizes the world's shrinking into a small global village, emphasizing language's critical role as a medium of expression and communication. Despite being as old as human civilization, translation has become indispensable in all aspects of life, particularly literature. Furthermore, both internationally and nationally, translation has a significant impact on all aspects of life. (Wu , 2008).

Translation is defined as the process of transferring meaning from one language to another. In fact, it is more than just a linguistic activity; it involves a variety of other factors as well. Because our thoughts in abstract form are in their original state, the practice of translation is as old as human civilization. When we translate our thoughts into action, they are translated - whether through articulation, written form, or symbolic representation (K Musthafa , 2014). Translation is the act or process of expressing something in one language or set of symbols using another language or set of symbols. For centuries, it has been assumed that translation occurs between languages. Without a doubt, one of the fundamental principles of translation as a means of communication is to be faithful to

the original. According to this principle, translation should first be faithful to the original's content, with literal translation accurately conveying the original cultural connotation. Perhaps cultural differences are an impediment to translation, but everything, in my opinion, is translatable. Because translation is a "re-coding," or a change in surface structure in representation of the underlying deep structure (Alwafai , 2015).

We are all aware that each nation has its own culture. It is a one-of-a-kind representation of their mind. A society's culture is whatever it takes to know or believe in order to operate in a way that is acceptable to its members, and to do so in any role that they expect for themselves. In a nutshell, culture refers to a society's entire way of life. It includes not only physical things like cities, organizations, and schools, but also intangible things like ideas, customs, family patterns, and languages. Language is viewed as an integral part of culture rather than as an isolated phenomenon suspended in a vacuum (Abdel Azim ElShiekh , 2012).

Translation and interpretation have always played an important role in intercultural communication. Lack of understanding of another culture can cause confusion, misunderstanding, or even offense during communication, making international or bilateral agreements difficult or impossible to conclude. Communication is obviously critical to the mission's success because there can be no negotiation without it. A translator or interpreter must recognize the importance of having a cultural background when participating in these types of negotiations, which

can affect thousands of people (Ahmad Sedki Dajani & Amin Omari, 2013).

Idioms and expressions, on the other hand, are phrases and sentences that do not mean exactly what they say. Even if a person knows the meaning of every word in the idioms or expressions, he or she may not understand their meanings because they are culturally based and reflect the native speaker's use of the language. Such expressions reflect connotative meanings and have cultural dimensions that go beyond their literal meanings. In other words, the target expression's apparent literal denotative meaning is completely different from its connotative meaning. A charged word or expression is any word or expression that can elicit a strong or powerful emotional response from the reader/listener, and it is a tool frequently used in the media to manipulate public opinion. Consider the following example when discussing abortion: If the addressor is pro-abortion, you may come across a statement like: Women have the right to freely use their own bodies. If, on the other hand, the addressor is anti-abortion, the following statement is likely to be found: Children have the right to life, so abortion is wrong (implying fetuses are children). In both statements, a "fetus" is not simply referred to as a fetus (Alwafai , 2015).

The translation process is not as simple or easy as it appears at first glance in the context under investigation. Rather, it is a complicated process because cultural elements pose a significant challenge for translators in producing creative translation. In other words, general cultural differences can be more difficult to overcome than

linguistic ones. This study is being conducted in this regard because it has been assumed that being bilingual is sufficient for good translation, ignoring the strong bond between language and culture in relation to translation (K Musthafa , 2014).

Science, academic research, business, management, education, health, culture, politics, diplomacy, development, and other fields all recognize the value of intercultural communication. Travel, international media, and the internet make it easier for people to communicate with one another. Everyone must interact with one another in order to avoid isolating the rest of the world and to survive in such an environment. As a result, intercultural communication is critical for everyone. Translation is essential in intercultural communication. It is required for international trade as well as social relations. The purpose of translation is to send ideas and events across time and space in order to comprehend, accomplish, or prove something (CHENG & KUI SIN, 2008).

Differences between Arabic and English in Expressive meaning.

The Arabic language has remained resilient and stable over more than 1,500 years, and it may be the only language that has not undergone radical changes. Despite differences in letter forms, an educated Arab today can read books from classical times and ancient manuscripts with relative ease (Ahmad Sedki Dajani & Amin Omari, 2013). Style is traditionally defined as the expressive, emotive, or aesthetic emphasis added linguistically to the discourse with the same meaning. The term "style" refers to the linguistic choices that language users have for

specific purposes. To achieve the aforementioned objectives, the study hypothesizes that English and Arabic speeches can be analyzed stylistically and that there are stylistic differences between the two languages (K Musthafa , 2014).

The Arabic language has remained resilient and stable over more than 1,500 years, and it may be the only language that has not undergone radical changes, as an educated Arab today can read books from classical times and ancient manuscripts with relative ease, despite differences in letter forms. In contrast, the situation among European languages has changed dramatically, especially now that the total number of officially recognized European languages has reached 41 in 45 countries. Most of these languages now share a common origin, dating back to the same linguistic roots, and differ only superficially, with dialects resembling one another from region to region. The need for translation is growing in these days of globalization and widespread immigration as trade, science, culture, and technology continue to expand. Translation is a branch of contrastive linguistics because it involves at least two languages and cultures. It is the process of conveying a message by transferring it from one language system to another. That is, it is the technique used to transfer and/or transform the meaning of a written term or text from the source language into the target language by using words with direct equivalence, new words or terms, foreign words written in target language, or foreign words adapted to fit the target language pronunciation (K Musthafa , 2014).

Arabic Generation, Grammar, and Upper Model Arabic has had well-established theoretical studies for over 1000 years. In comparison to other languages, however, Arabic has received far less modern computational interest. To generate Arabic text, an Arabic grammar is required. Although different languages share the fact that they are tools for communicating meaning, their grammars differ greatly. A brief description of Arabic language characteristics, specifically Arabic grammar, would help the reader recognize some similarities and differences between Arabic and other languages. Furthermore, such a description would serve as a jumping-off point for assembling the necessary theory for developing a prototype of an Arabic systemic grammar (Wu , 2008).

- Achieving the Terminological Equivalence in Translation.

Much has been written in recent years about both literary and non-literary translation. However, one type of discourse has received little attention from translation studies scholars. It is philosophical discourse, and obtaining any information about philosophical translation is difficult, as some admit. Communication is what distinguishes humans. Because people speak different languages and have different cultures, translation becomes the only way to transfer information and events all over the world. Translation, like other disciplines, is classified into several types, including legal translation, journalistic translation, literary translation, medical translation, and so on. Because legal translation has its own terminology, it can be considered a distinct category in its own right. Legal terminology requires special care because it contains terms

that are embedded in local cultures and traditions. Despite global increases in language learning, English knowledge, and automated translation, human translation remains an important part of global communication. However, as most professionals will agree, there are good and bad translations. To address the question of how to improve poor translations, I examine various aspects of translation that contribute to producing a natural, easy-to-read translation that could pass for a work written by a native of the target language. Languages have different concepts for conveying meaning, which can cause difficulties in finding a translation equivalent during the translation process. The transfer of meaning from one language to another is known as translation. A good translation should read as if it were written in the target language (TL), while striking a balance between linguistic form and cultural acceptability. This is determined by the selection of appropriate translation equivalents in the target language (K Musthafa , 2014).

Equivalence has long been a source of contention in translation, particularly in legal translation. That takes a semiotic approach to the translation of legal terms, based on a review of the literature on the concept of equivalence and an analysis of the features of legal discourses. Legal discourses have traditionally used a strict literal translation, which is related to the fact that, until recently, the law was strictly interpreted and not regarded as communication. In general, equivalence refers to the relationship between the source text and target text that allows the final product to be called translation. Despite recent heated debates about its usefulness, equivalence remains a core concept of

translation theory and a conceptual basis of translation quality assessment, even though it may be associated with subjectivity in evaluation (K Musthafa , 2014).

When translating philosophical terms, equivalence at the pragmatic meaning level, which takes precedence over semantic meaning, should be established. The meaning of a term, on the other hand, is manifest 'outside' of the term itself, possessing special illocutionary force that transcends the denotational sense that the translator must decode. However, when people try to transplant some prescriptive legal discourses, they usually expect the translation of a source text to be applied to the target language situation; with increasing international cooperation of legal airs, some judicial decisions or other instruments in judicial proceedings can be directly or indirectly applied to a foreign jurisdiction (CHENG & KUI SIN, 2008).

The concept of dynamic equivalence and terminological incongruity appear to make finding an exact or total equivalence difficult; as Saussure remarks, "if words had the job of representing concepts fixed in advance, one would be able to find exact equivalents for them as between one language and another." It is typically difficult to find equivalence in both translation and interpretation. This is typically made more difficult by the constant evolution of terminologies in some languages, as well as increased innovations and changes in phenomena. One of the first challenges in researching the concept of equivalence and its application in translation is determining how to define the term "equivalence," as no two authors appear to reach the same conclusion (Alwafai, 2015).

The ISSUES were faced and the SOLUTION were taken while translating the text:

1_ I faced the difficulty of understanding the meaning of idioms and fixed expressions of the ST and how to translate them in the TT with the same ideas of the source language. I find two ways to solve this problem :

A_ I used an idiom of similar meaning and form in the TL that conveys exactly the same meaning for example, a stroke of luck

ضربة حظ

B_ I used an idiom of similar meaning but different form in the TL for example , “it never rains but it pours”

المصائب لا تأتي فرادى

2_ I faced some European languages like French and German , I used electronic dictionary (MT) then I convey the meaning according to the context.

3_ I forced to add some words and conjunctions they didn't appear in ST to complete the structure and context in suitable way in TT, for example :

في المحصلة ، في المقابل ، مع ذلك

4_ I deleted some sentences and words because they aren't suitable in target culture , without any affect on the meaning of the context .

5_ I faced some grammatical problems ,and to deal with these issues I did some ways for example : I rearranged the structure of some sentences to deal with grammatical rules in TT, and I fronted some verbs and adjectives, and I used the singular form instead of plural .

6_ I used transcription procedure to deal with the names of persons , places, for example :

فرويد ، والبول ، موسكو ، باريس

7_ I used naturalization procedure to deal with the names of languages, for example:

السواحلية ، التاميلية ، القشتالية

8_ I used cultural, functional equivalent procedures to deal with some words and expressions, for example :

فيديو رقمي DVD ، wordsmiths فطاحلة اللغة

Conclusion

Translation is a field of knowledge that is wide open and has not been exhausted yet. This project is written with intention to be simplified, easier and more suitable for anyone to read. It views translation as a practical subject in teaching and learning as well as application. I hope that any translator can benefit from the suggested approaches and put it to use. In addition, it hoped that, it can be enriched and developed by interested and experienced teachers, translators and readers. The importance of style in translation referred to in all parts.

Translation should not be taken to mean the translation of words from one language into another that is a word for word or a phrase for phrase, a clause for clause etc. This method of translation may not be acceptable and sometimes it may lead to absolute nonsense, particularly when we translate phrasal verbs, idioms or proverbs in the source language to its equivalent into the target language.

As stated before, the two languages namely, English and Arabic are related to two different families, so it is absolutely expected to have different points in grammar , word orders, types of sentences, forms of verbs, terms, articles, adverbs, adjectives, etc. from all this, problems in

translation will arise. What is previously mentioned is not enough or final. There are many other problems, like those in the translation of style, collocations, idioms, phrasal verbs, proverbs, Lexical word.

Translation can play a number of different roles such as a ‘unifying’ or constructing new words but also, most crucially, as a source of knowledge about foreign, lesser known cultures. Thus, translation is not merely a linguistic process, but can also make a political and social impact. Indeed The translation of these languages will allow us to open the doors to an unknown cultural and linguistic world. It will also introduce a rich developing world reference point to translation methodology and development education alike.

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