



IRAQI
Academic Scientific Journals



العراقية
المجلات الأكاديمية العلمية

ISSN: 2663-9033 (Online) | ISSN: 2616-6224 (Print)

Journal of Language Studies

Contents available at: <https://jls.tu.edu.iq/index.php/JLS>



Assessing The Quality of Arabic-English Translation of Journalistic Texts: A Case Study of the Iraqi News Agency

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Received: 07/10/2025, Accepted: 02/12 /2025, Online Published: 31/03/2026

Abstract

In an ever-growing and globalized media landscape, the role of translation in shaping the dissemination of news across the cultural and linguistic boundaries has become more crucial. The study investigates translation quality of news texts and headlines in Iraqi news agency, the research case study. It employs Mildred Larson's model (1984) of TQA in the analysis and discussion of the data. The criteria of the model which are accuracy, clarity, naturalness and correctness are applied to assess the quality of Iraqi news agency translation of news into English. The study hypothesizes the adopted model can be applicable, valid and efficient in assessing the quality of translated texts. To achieve this, the researcher applies each criterion to three examples from news text and headlines and assess the translation and to what extent the source text is appropriately rendered. The study concludes that Larson's model (1984) — with its four key criteria (accuracy, clarity, naturalness, and correctness) — is a valid, practical, and reliable framework for assessing translation quality in journalistic contexts. When applied to the English translations

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produced by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), it revealed consistent issues that undermine the communicative and professional quality of the output.

Keywords: Translation Quality Assessment, Journalistic Translation, Iraqi News Agency, Larson Model (1984), accuracy

تقييم جودة الترجمة من العربية إلى الإنجليزية للنصوص الصحفية: دراسة حالة لوكالة الأنباء العراقية

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المستخلص

في مشهد إعلامي متنائم ومعولم باستمرار، أصبح دور الترجمة في تشكيل نشر الأخبار عبر الحدود الثقافية واللغوية أكثر أهمية. تبحث هذه الدراسة في جودة ترجمة النصوص الإخبارية والعناوين في وكالة الأنباء العراقية، دراسة الحالة البحثية. وتستخدم نموذج لارسون (1984) لتقييم جودة الترجمة في تحليل ومناقشة البيانات. يتم تطبيق معايير النموذج المتمثلة في الدقة والوضوح والطبيعية والصحة لتقييم جودة ترجمة وكالة الأنباء العراقية للأخبار إلى اللغة الإنجليزية. تفترض الدراسة أن النموذج المعتمد قابل للتطبيق وصالح وفعال في تقييم جودة النصوص المترجمة. ولتحقيق ذلك، يطبق الباحث كل معيار على ثلاثة أمثلة من النصوص الإخبارية والعناوين ويقوم بتقييم الترجمة ومدى نقل النص المصدر بشكل مناسب. تخلص الدراسة إلى أن نموذج لارسون بمعايير الأساسية الأربعة (الدقة والوضوح والطبيعية والصحة) — يُعد إطاراً صالحاً وعملياً وموثوقاً لتقييم جودة الترجمة في السياقات الصحفية. عند تطبيقه على الترجمات الإنجليزية التي أنتجتها وكالة الأنباء العراقية (واع)، كشفت الدراسة عن مشكلات متكررة تُضعف الجودة التواصلية والمهنية للغة الهدف.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تقييم جودة الترجمة، الترجمة الصحفية، وكالة الأنباء العراقية، أنموذج لارسون (1984)، الدقة

1. Introduction

In today's modern world, news plays a vital role in shaping opinion of public and informing international audience. News is an account of ongoing events presented in a medium to the public audience. It informs and educates society about local, and global events that impact the lives of people. It doesn't only serve as a record of daily events but a tool for social, political, and economic engagement. News translation has significantly grown especially where political and security developments draw global attention. news translation has become an important component in journalism. It enables stories and events to transcend language barriers to reach wider audiences. However, the translation of news is not merely a linguistic transfer; it demands a careful balance between faithfulness to the source text and adaptation to the target audience's cultural and linguistic expectations.

2. Statement of the problem

In recent years, bilingual journalism has played an increasingly important role in Iraq's media landscape. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) frequently translates Arabic news reports

into English to reach international readers. However, the quality of these translations has not been thoroughly examined. Questions remain about how accurately and naturally the translated texts convey the meaning and style of the original Arabic reports. While several studies have addressed the quality of Arabic-English translation in general, few have focused specifically on journalistic texts. This study aims to fill that gap by assessing the quality of INA's Arabic-English translations through Larson's (1984) model, which evaluates accuracy, clarity, naturalness, and correctness.

3. Questions of the Study

This study seeks to evaluate the quality of Arabic-English translations produced by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) within the framework of Larson's (1984) Translation Quality Assessment model. To achieve this aim, the study addresses the following research questions:

1. To what extent do the English translations of INA's Arabic news texts reflect accuracy in conveying the original meaning?
2. How clear and understandable are the translated texts for English-speaking audiences?
3. To what degree do the translations exhibit naturalness in terms of linguistic and stylistic features?

4. News text

News is a fundamental and central in Journalism. It embodies the ideas of *new* and *interesting*, as it denotes to the reporting of events that are recent and relevant. News texts, in general, are written to report information on new or current events and are relayed to a mass audience by print, broadcast or the Internet. News texts are shaped by news agencies' objectives and agendas and the kind of reception expected from the audience. Behind their creation lies a complex process involving organizational, economic and socio-political factors. (Grazia Busà, 2014: 14-24)

News characteristics distinguishes it from other journalistic writings, including the content, the style of the text, the structure, and the language use. Journalists have to master these characteristics to produce a good journalistic writing that allow readers to understand the information conveyed. Journalists' ability to write news can be assessed through news structure and language use. most common structures are the inverted pyramid, the hourglass and narrative story telling. Journalistic writing follows the principles such as keep it short, simple and tell the story i.e. news written in concise and clear language, using a short paragraph, active voice and avoiding cliches. complex sentence and subordinate clauses should be avoided. these structural and linguistic principles serve as tools to evaluate journalist ability in writing news texts. (Arfiyanti et al. 2018, 168–169)

5. News Headline

News headlines are the concentration or the summary of a piece of news. Zhang (2013) proposes that "the title of an article is an indispensable condiment not only in a voluminous

comment, but also in short and tough news.” As a starting point, headlines are an inseparable part of a piece of news is supposed to “attract the reader’s attention, summarize the story, help the reader index the contents of the page, depict the mood of the story, help set the tone of the newspaper, and provide adequate typographic relief” (Brooks, 2005: 219). “Newspaper headlines are relevance optimizers: They are designed to optimize the relevance of their stories for their readers” (Dor, 2003: 696).

6. News translation

Davier and Conway (2019:2) says “news translation” is defined as a field of systematic study of translation practices, rendering, and intercultural mediation in shaping news within news institutions or in organizations that supplies journalists with press releases. In a broad meaning, they view translation as “the re-expression of bits of speech or text in a different language”, and “the explanation of how members of a foreign cultural community interpret an object or event”, (ibid.).

News stories that are rendered for new audiences undergo transformation and manipulation processes in which translation “is one element in a complex set of processes whereby information is transposed from one language into another and then edited, rewritten, shaped and repackaged in a new context, to such a degree that any clear distinction between source and target ceases to be meaningful. (Bielsa & Bassnett 2009: 11)

For Bielsa (2020: 365) News translation refers to various processes through which the news is communicated across linguistic divides. It includes production of news and circulation to a wide variety of media, in oral and written forms, sometimes referred to as transediting as well as news interpreting. Stetting (1989: 371) argues that “transediting” proves to be significant in the news translation context., However, the term is debated heavily in news translation.

Schaffner (2012:880) notes that although transediting can raise awareness to the concept of news translation and support its recognition as special genre, however, using the term would undermine the wider understanding of translation. Traditionally, translation mainly viewed as meaning transfer or a linguistic substitution, whereas today it is conceived in a broader, more modern sense.

Scholars identified common aspects which seem to “characterize the concept of translation in different news contexts; First, translations are rarely indicated as such in the news. Second, trained translators are generally absent from newsrooms. Third, translation is perceived as an inseparable process from news production” (Bielsa et al, 2009:10-70) Fourth, key terms in studying translation (the ST and TT) are challenged by many news translation studies.

6.1 News Translation Strategies

Bielsa and Bassnett’s (2009:84) examine particular values, strategies, and evaluate perspective of practicing journalists which can be summarized as follows:

- News translation entails transforming the ST and producing a new version that fits specific audiences in line with the journalistic norms of the target region. The ST isn't treated as a finished product but rather as a foundation for creating and elaborating a new text.
- Texts must conform to the stylistic and the journalistic norms of various contexts. Often, more than one ST is used for creating a news report which becomes not just a translation but also synthesis of various news texts related to the same theme.
- When the STs are written in a way which cannot be changed, the translator should preserve the original reporter's intent while reshaping the text so that target readers can understand it and connect it to the reality it conveys.
- The translators or editors are job to ensure that the information they handle is accurate and describes effectively the development of an event; relies on authentic sources, and follows the inverted pyramid structure in its narration.
- Fluency is serving as the main strategy to achieve conciseness and clarity. These are the key objectives of the dual process of editing and translation, in which texts are not only reviewed and corrected but also synthesized and rewritten for a new readership.

7. Translation quality assessment

In Translation studies, the quality of translation should be assessed. Translation quality assessment (herein, TQA) has become a fundamental concern in a product-oriented attracting increasing attention from scholars and experts of translation. Koby et al. (2014:416) says, in wider sense, "A quality translation demonstrates accuracy and fluency required for the audience and purpose and complies with all other specifications negotiated between the requester and provider, taking into account end-user needs". In narrow view, Koby et al (ibid, 417) a high-quality translation is one in which the message embodied in ST is conveyed completely into TT, including denotation, connotation, nuance and style. The TT is written using correct grammar and word order to produce a text appropriate culturally, that reads as if originally written by a native speaker of TL.

Shakernia (cited in Hamdan et al, 2024:290) adds that a great attention should be paid to the quality of translation and how to provide a good translation in accordance with certain criteria. She emphasizes on an empirical model for evaluating the translation quality of a rendered text by the targeted culture and strong emphasis is placed on ensuring equivalency between the SL and TL texts.

8. Methodology

The aim of the present study is to assess the quality of news translation into English in Iraqi news agency. The study employs purposive sampling method. It was chosen to ensure the texts relevant to the study and to reflect a variety of journalistic texts ((e.g., political, economic, and cultural reports). The following is an explanation of the adopted model:

8.1 Larson Model of TQA

The Larson model is among the models applied in the TQA field to assess and test translated works. To do so, the translator needs to check carefully by himself or other

people. If the translation fails to convey the message of the ST effectively, it indicates that the message has not been thoroughly verified. Translation testing is a procedure every project should start with and when it is tested, it will provide feedback to the translator, which will detect weak points and help for a better outcome.

For Nababan (2012:39-57), quality translation must fulfill three crucial aspects: accuracy, clarity, and naturalness. The first one, accuracy, means the text contains no addition, no omission, or wrong information. Readability, on the other hand, means the translation is clear. There is no lexical vagueness, no syntactic vagueness and nonsense. As for naturalness, the rendering should be lexically, stylistically, and syntactically natural.

Oktaviani (2018:523-529) mentions, in his study, Larson classifies three important reasons for assessing the quality of translation. First, evaluating a translation means that the translation is accurate. Second, for the evaluation of the produced translation is clear. Third, evaluating a translation is natural. These reasons are significant to obtain good translation quality.

In summary, Larson's (1984:485) model identifies three principal criteria for assessing translation quality in the target language—**accuracy, clarity, and naturalness**—while a fourth criterion, **correctness**, has been proposed to account for the typographical features of texts.

1- Accuracy:

Larson says that accuracy is important since translator can easily unconsciously omit parts of the original text or include information that is unjustified and intended in ST during the restructuring stage in order to convey the intended meaning. Inaccurate translation may stem from incorrect and wrong analysis of ST and the conveying process. In her view, accurate translation includes no addition, no omission, and no wrong information.

Munday (2016:50), has a similar perspective of the assessment criterion. First, accuracy is considered to be the primary requirement and is representing the error-free transfer of information and a sign of full understanding. Second, it also includes the technical elements of a text, such as punctuation. Munday (2016:50) suggests that accuracy can be seen as the modern linguistic counterpart of faithfulness and truth. In Zhong's view (2002:575), the concept of accuracy serves as a standard which requires translations to be precise on a lexico-semantic level, faithful to SL text, and both objective and impartial.

2- Clarity

Larson identifies clarity as the second key criterion, essential for ensuring that the translation is easily understood. She argues that it is important to check for clarity because "a translation can be accurate but still does not communicate the message to the target reader. Larson (1984:487) maintains that clarity dictates using forms of language that make the (TT) easily comprehensible and unchallenging to understand like the (ST) text itself is to understand in its original context".

Drugan (2013:17) explains that a well-executed translation is often described as "invisible". He likens it to a sheet of glass; good translation is a clear and smooth pane, while poor translation shows cracks, textures, scratches, or bubbles that draw attention to the translator's work. Gutt (2010:69-72) emphasizes that translations should aim for both accuracy and clarity of meaning. He argues that whereas earlier translation theories

prioritized source-oriented approaches—preserving the original’s form, style, and linguistic features—modern translation approaches, emerging since the 1960s, focus more on the message content and the effect on the target-language audience, with Nida’s dynamic equivalence being one of the pioneering approaches in this direction.

3- Naturalness

Larson (1984:487) points out that a translation may be accurate in the sense that the translator understands correctly the (ST) and that it may be clear in that it communicates the message in the (TL) adequately, but the forms of language used sound odd or unnatural. Larson emphasizes the naturalness of translation, arguing that a translation should read as though it were an original text in the target language rather than a translation. Her criterion of naturalness manifests itself in idiomatic coherent translation with easy flow, vivid style, and familiar grammatical forms. As for the naturalness test, Larson (ibid, 488) suggests that the translator can test the criterion by comparing the translated text with original texts in the target language. Pym (2014:33) maintains that what is said in one language can have a similar value, worth, or function when translated into another language. Pym contends that equivalence does not necessarily mean languages are the same, rather they have the same value and that translation is only natural when “natural equivalence” manifests itself in concepts of equal value that exist in different languages prior to the process of translation.

4- Correctness

To account for a crucial aspect of language Larson left unexplored, correctness is incorporated into the assessment model as a fourth criterion to investigate basic aspects of grammar and punctuation. Correctness in the current study will cover four typographical aspects of written texts: punctuation, abbreviation, morphology, and textual macrostructure.

Punctuation makes possible the clear presentation of the English language. It is a conventional system that is designed to help readers read and understand a story without stumbling. It is a key for effective communication and anyone who reads and writes should possess a good working knowledge of grammar—this includes the nuts and bolts of punctuation. A check for punctuation here includes capitalization, periods, commas, colons, semicolons, apostrophes, exclamation marks, question marks, etc. (King, 2004:1-23)

Abbreviations are useful space-saving devices. They are employed extensively both in technical or specialized/formal and informal writing, however, to a lesser degree in formal writing. It is better to spell these linguistic tools out, especially for some abbreviations that stand for more than one thing, unless the context makes the meaning clear. For instance, (*He was a CO in the war*) is perplexing because the abbreviation stands for two meanings: “commanding officer” and “conscientious objector”. (Manser, 2003)

Morphology is technically a branch of grammar which is concerned with the structure of words, and with relationships between them through the morphemes they contain. To make the meanings of complex words predictable, morphemes must be distinguishable

across different words and contribute in some way to the overall meaning of the word, (Carstairs et al 2002:16).

Macrostructure is a concept used by Dijk (1980: 51) to describe ordered sets of propositions that are conveyed indirectly through larger units of text or speech. Similarly, Fairclough (1995:29) employs the concept to refer to both the gist or core content of a text and its overall form and organization. Pajunen (2008:18) argues that the universal level of semantic representation of a given text, as opposed to the local level, is the typical place of operation for macrostructures. Macrostructure is employed here to account for the specific global schematic order of news discourse.

9. The analytical aspect

9.1 Data collection

The data of this study have been collected from Iraqi news agency (herein, INA) The state-run official agency which publishes news in public languages (Arabic, Kurdish) and English. The samples have been taken from different news sections such as sport, politics, and security. Three excerpts will be selected for each criterion—three for accuracy, three for clarity, three for naturalness, and three for correctness. The sample size is selected to provide a manageable yet representative sample of the translation quality.

9.2 The adopted model

In the present study, the model of Larson’s TQA has been used to assess the quality of the English translation. Four criteria have been selected to evaluate whether the translation achieves accuracy, clarity, naturalness, and correctness.

9.3 Data analysis

The present study focuses on assessing the quality of translations of Arabic journalistic texts and headlines. Accordingly, the source texts (ST) are in Arabic, and the target texts (TT) are English translations produced by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). Criteria of Larson model are applied to the translation. Each of the criterion will be carefully and separately investigated. For each of the criterion, there are sub divided criteria which should be taken into account when the SL text is analyzed.

1- Accuracy

| ST (1) | TT (INA) |
|---|---|
| أشاد فاجن بجهود الحكومة في تسريع عجلة التنمية والنهضة العمرانية | He commended the government’s efforts in accelerating development and reconstruction. |

Discussion:

Despite the fact that the translation of the sentence entails no addition and no omission, it is inaccurate translation. The translator render “النهضة العمرانية” into “reconstruction” which is inaccurate one since it gives wrong information and inaccurate information. The

English reduces specificity slightly. Therefore, the meaning is not accurately translated in the TT. The suggested translation for the phrase “النهضة العمرانية” is “construction renaissance”.

| ST (2) | TT (INA) |
|---|--|
| أعلن جهاز مكافحة الإرهاب الإثنيين، قتل 7 من عناصر داعش وتدمير 25 مضافة. | <u>The Counter-Terrorism Service announced on Monday the killing of 7 ISIS elements and the destruction of 22 guesthouses.</u> |

Discussion:

In term of accuracy, the translation is still inaccurate in the sense that it contains wrong information. The translation of the word “عناصر” into “elements” is inaccurate and literal. The word itself refers to a part of group of people which can be ordinary group of people and not necessary in warfare. Therefore, the translation results in a different meaning in the TL and distort the SL message. The accurate translation for the word is “militant” which refers to persons engaged in warfare.

In addition, the translation of the word “مضافة” into “guesthouse” is still inaccurate translation in the sense it provides wrong information. The word “guesthouse” refers to a small house where invited guests can stay. This rendition gives a different meaning than the one expressed in the SL text. The most appropriate translation for this word is “hideout” which means a place of concealment.

| ST (3) | TT (INA) |
|--|---|
| وتابع، أنه "تم تسليمه الى السلطات الكويتية، وهذا ما مطلوب من وزارة الداخلية العراقية في تسليم المتهمين المتواجدين داخل البلاد وتم ذلك بين الإنتربول العراقي والإنتربول الكويتي." | <u>He continued, "He was handed over to the Kuwaiti authorities, and this is what is required of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior in the extradition of the accused who are inside the country, and this was done between the Iraqi Interpol and the Kuwaiti Interpol."</u> |

Discussion:

The translation is also inaccurate. The translation of “he continued” for ST “وتابع” is inaccurate as it conveys a different meaning. The ST refers to the continuation of an official statement, whereas the translation presents it as if someone is speaking, which alters the intended meaning in context. Another sort of inaccuracy is the translation of “ وتم تسلمه الى ” “السلطات الكويتية” to “He was handed over to the Kuwaiti authorities”. The verb “hand over” refers to a physical transferring of someone without a formal legal process. Therefore, the best accurate translation can be “he was extradited to Kuwaiti authorities”.

In addition, the translation of “and this is what is required of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior in the extradition of the accused who are inside the country” is inaccurate. The translation of “accused” for “المتهمين” gives a different meaning in TT. In addition, the use of passive voice in “and this was done between the Iraqi Interpol and the Kuwaiti Interpol.” instead of the active voice further reinforcing the translation accuracy.

2- Clarity

| ST (1) | TT (INA) |
|---|---|
| <p><u>رفض نادي برشلونة عدة عروض مغربية قدمتها أندية أوروبية كبرى للتعاقد مع لامين يامال، النجم الشاب البالغ من العمر 17 عامًا، الذي بات أحد أبرز المواهب الصاعدة في عالم كرة القدم.</u></p> | <p><u>Barcelona rejected several tempting offers from major European clubs to sign Lamine Yamal, the 17-year-old young star who has become one of the most prominent rising talents in the world of football.</u></p> |

Discussion:

A check for clarity shows that the TT lacks clarity. The phrase “Barcelona rejected several tempting offers from major European clubs to sign Lamine Yamal” is strongly ambiguous. The information in the TT is unclear whether Barcelona rejected the offers to sign Yamal or clubs trying to sign him. Therefore, the translator fails to get the message in the first part of the news. A clear translation can be “Barcelona rejected several tempting offers from major Europeans clubs seeking to sign Lamine Yamal.”

| ST (2) | TT (INA) |
|--|--|
| <p><u>لافتة الى أن "الحكومة نجحت أيضاً في استرجاع نحو 50 مليار دينار من المتورطين بملفات فساد في صفقة القرن، فضلاً عن مدير عام المصافي ومعاون مدير الاستثمار خلال العام 2024."</u></p> | <p><u>noting that "the government also succeeded in recovering about 50 billion dinars from those involved in corruption files in the Deal of the Century, in addition to the Director General of Refineries and the Assistant Director of Investment during the year 2024."</u></p> |

Discussion:

The same can be applicable to this text where the lexical item of “ files” in “corruption files” for “ملفات فساد” makes the message unclear to the TT reader. It begs the question whether these files are merely collections of documents and evidence or truly treated ones. Corruption cases can be a clear translation instead. In addition, the translation of “ صفقة القرن” into “Deal of Century isn’t clear. The literal translation results in unsuccessful choice of lexical “deal” make it unclear whether it refers to the Israeli-Palestinian peace plan proposed by the Trump administration or not a new plan. A clear rendition would be “ heist of century”.

Another sort of unclarity is the translation of “in addition to the Director General of Refineries and the Assistant Director of Investment during the year 2024.” For “ فضلاً عن مدير عام المصافي ومعاون مدير الاستثمار خلال العام 2024”. The poor structuring and literal translation hinder the message and make it difficult to understand whether those individuals are involved in “heist of century” or part of those from whom the money is recovered. A full translation can be “She noted that the government also succeeded in recovering about 50 billion dinars from those involved in corruption cases linked to the Heist of the Century, which included the arrest of the Director General of Refineries and the Assistant Director of Investment during 2024”

| ST (3) | TT (INA) |
|---|---|
| وعلى صعيد آخر، أعلنت السفارة السورية في القاهرة، صباح اليوم السبت، تصديق الوثائق العائدة للمواطنين السوريين مجاناً، بالإضافة إلى استمرارها بتمديد صلاحية جوازات السفر مجاناً لـ 6 أشهر ولمرة واحدة، ومنح تذاكر المرور للعودة إلى سوريا مجاناً | <u>On another note, the Syrian embassy in Cairo announced this morning, Saturday, the certification of documents belonging to Syrian citizens free of charge, in addition to continuing to extend the validity of passports free of charge for 6 months and for one time and granting free transit tickets to return to Syria</u> |

Discussion:

Clarity falls short in the translation of this news. The phrase “certification of documents belonging to Syrian citizens free of charge” is ambiguous. It is not clear whether “free of charge” modify the citizen or the documents. Also, “free of charge” isn’t clear in the second part of the news. It isn’t clear whether the extension is free of charge, or there are passports that are free of charge that only can be extended. The translator failed to convey the message due to poor structure and literal translation of the paragraph. Therefore, it is ambiguous and unclear to the reader of the TT.

3- Naturalness

| ST (1) | TT (INA) |
|---|---|
| البنك المركزي: حققنا إنجازاً كبيراً في التحويلات الخارجية | <u>CBI: We have achieved a great achievement in abroad remittance</u> |

Discussion:

A careful check for naturalness in translation of this headline, shows that there is unnatural stylistic choice which makes the headline sounds foreign. The translator translates the phrase “حققنا إنجازاً كبيراً” into “achieved a great achievement”. The phrase is tautological and natural English avoids such style. Another violation of naturalness is the translation of “التحويلات الخارجية” into “abroad remittance”. The phrase isn’t idiomatic in standard English. The term “abroad” is an adverb, not an adjective, and cannot precede the noun "remittance" as a modifier. It makes the headline completely unfamiliar and unnatural. Thus, a natural translation can be “we have made a great achievement in foreign remittance”

| ST (2) | TT (INA) |
|--|---|
| جهاز مكافحة الإرهاب: قتل 7 من عناصر داعش وتدمير 25 مضافة | <u>Counter-Terrorism Service: Killing 7 ISIS elements and destroying 22 guesthouses</u> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

Discussion:

Naturalness in this headline is not met due to inappropriate syntactic choices in the translation such as “killing” for “قتل” and “destroying” for “تدمير” in the ST. The headline lacks a clear subject-verb agreement. Due to literal translation and the unjustified use of gerund, the translation is evidently awkward and unnatural. A natural and an acceptable translation would be “Counter-Terrorism Service kills 7 ISIS militants, destroys 22 hideouts”.

| ST (3) | TT (INA) |
|--|---|
| الداخلية تصدر توضيحاً بشأن تسليم متهم مطلوب إلى الجانب الكويتي | Interior Ministry issues clarification on extradition of an accused wanted by Kuwait. |

Discussion:

Although the headline is clear, naturalness falls short in that unnatural stylistic choices are employed in the headline. The translator renders “تصدر توضيحاً” into “issues clarification” by using literal translation. Thus, it is stylistically unnatural and redundant in English. A natural translation can be “Interior Ministry clarifies on...”. Also, the translation of “متهم مطلوب” into “an accused wanted by Kuwait” is also unnatural from a stylistic and lexical point of view. The phrase is too redundant and awkward in English and distort the meaning TT reader. In addition, the translation of “الجانب الكويتي” into Kuwait seems unnatural stylistically. There is a need for a word to give the statement a more formal and complete tone. Therefore, a natural translation for the headline would be “Interior ministry clarifies on the extradition of an individual wanted by Kuwait authorities”.

4- Correctness

| ST (1) | TT (INA) |
|---|--|
| الإطاحة بـ(8) مطلوبين بالإرهاب والخطف وتجارة المخدرات والبشر في بغداد | Eight Suspects Arrested in Baghdad for Terrorism and drug trafficking Crimes: DGIS |

Discussion:

As for correctness criteria, the translation seems to violate this criterion in a number of ways. First, the headline mixes the upper and lower letter. Headlines, in fact, can be written either upper or lower letter, but it is important to maintain consistency in producing the headline. Another violation of the correctness is enumeration error in the list of crimes. In

the source text (ST), four distinct crimes are clearly enumerated: الإرهاب (terrorism), الخطف (kidnapping), تجارة المخدرات (drug trafficking), and البشر (human trafficking). The target text (TT), however, renders this list inaccurately as "...terrorism and drug trafficking crimes". In addition, the headline translation incorrectly ended with a colon with an abbreviation of news source. It is worth noting that the abbreviation of the news source might be unclear to the readers without a prior text.

| ST (2) | TT (INA) |
|---|--|
| وقالت الصحيفة (بلد) الألمانية إن "الزيارة تأتي وسط الإعلان عن تغيير بمناهج التعليم في سوريا مما شكل صدمة"، أما مجلة (دير شبيغل) فقد عنونت تقريراً لها (بزيارة من دون مصافحة) في إشارة إلى القيادة الجديدة لسوريا. | The German newspaper (Balad) said that "the visit comes amidst the announcement of a change in the education curricula in Syria, which came as a shock". At the same time, Der Spiegel magazine titled its report (A visit without shaking hands) about the new leadership of Syria. |

Discussion:

The rendition fails to meet the correctness criteria in that the translator to leave out unsuitable Parentheses in (A visit without shaking hands) and (Balad). Titles should be in quotation marks. In addition, the full stop should go inside the quotation mark not outside.

| ST (3) | TT (INA) |
|--|---|
| وأكد رئيس مجلس الوزراء "حرص العراق، حكومة وشعباً، على دعم لبنان، وتقوية مؤسسات الدولة فيه، والوقوف إلى جانب الشعب اللبناني الشقيق، ورفض أي اعتداء على السيادة أو تدخل خارجي يمس إرادته المستقلة"، مشيراً إلى "استمرار الدعم والإسناد لتجاوز التحديات الراهنة." | Prime Minister affirmed "Iraq's commitment, both government and people, to supporting Lebanon strengthening its state institutions standing by the brotherly Lebanese people, and rejecting any attack on its sovereignty or foreign interference," noting "continued support and assistance to overcome current challenges." |

Discussion:

The translation doesn't meet the correction criteria. The translator missed to add the article "the" before "prime minister". Also, the translation of "both government and

people” need an article before it. Additionally, the translator fails to use the punctuation correctly. The comma should be used before “strengthening and standing”.

The table below presents the frequency of each sub-criterion in the translation and provides a detailed account of how the translator applied them.

10. Conclusion

This study sets out to assess the quality of Arabic-English translations of journalistic texts and headlines produced by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), using Larson’s model as a framework for evaluation. The study concludes:

- 1- The study effectively demonstrates that Larson’s model (1984) — with its four key criteria (accuracy, clarity, naturalness, and correctness) — is a valid, practical, and

| Criteria | Sub-criteria | TT Ex. 1 | TT Ex. 2 | TT Ex. 3 |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Accuracy | Addition | | | |
| | Omission | | | |
| | Wrong information | + | ++ | +++ |
| Clarity | Lexical ambiguity | | ++ | |
| | Syntactic ambiguity | + | + | ++ |
| | Nonsense | | | |
| Naturalness | Lexical unnaturalness | + | | + |
| | Syntactic unnaturalness | | + | |
| | Stylistic unnaturalness | + | | ++ |
| Correctness | Punctuation | + | + | + |
| | Morphology | | | |
| | Abbreviation | + | | |
| | Macrostructure | | | |

- reliable framework for assessing translation quality in journalistic contexts. When applied to the English translations produced by INA, it revealed consistent issues that undermine the communicative and professional quality of the output.
- 2- The analysis of the data reveals a systematic shortcoming that compromise the fidelity and communicative effectiveness of translations quality, there is a need for a higher standard of practice within INA output.

- 3- INA translation and the use of Larson's model to evaluate require a linguistic competence and contextual awareness in both the source language and the target language. The translators' limited grasp of journalistic writing conventions and styles have resulted in renderings that doesn't meet professional standards.
- 4- The study concludes that literal translation and lack of contextual adaptation has hindered the accuracy and the clarity of the text. Furthermore, the translator's insufficient familiarity with stylistics norms contributes to unnatural texts.
- 5- The study found that INA translators often failed to adapt texts to English journalistic norms, resulting in awkward phrasing and loss of intended meaning. This shows limited awareness of the conventions and stylistics expected in English-language media.

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