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The Argumentative Structural Shifts in English-Arabic Translation of BBC News Reports: A Sociolinguistic And Cultural Perspective

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ABSTRACT

The socio-cultural and ideological features of translation have become so prominent that many studies have investigated the translation shifts resulting from the linguistic transference from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL). It is the primary aim of the present article to demonstrate the nature of the structural (morpho-syntactic) shifts in the Arabic written translation of English political British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) news, which may be attributable to differences in cultural, ideological and sociolinguistic backgrounds of the target language speakers (Arabic). The heterogeneity of the socio-cultural context in which the English and Arabic political discourses are communicated is reflected in the syntactic shifts in the sentential and phrasal structure in the translation process of BBC News. The target texts (TT) exhibit a substantial tendency to conform to the socio-cultural and ideological context of the target language (TL) at the expense of the morphosyntactic structure of the ST.

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The research methodology involves analyzing some English BBC news extracts (ST) and their Arabic translation to investigate the structural shifts in translation. The data analysis, conducted with meticulous attention to detail, shows that the Arabic translation alters the (ST) linguistic structures and shifts the socio-cultural and ideological conceptions of the target text (TT) readers. A key aspect of the methodology is the adoption of a comparative approach, which allows for a thorough examination of the structural differences and similarities and their corresponding content. The article also takes cognizance of Hatim's (1997) ideas on translation across different cultures and those of Fishman (1972) on the sociolinguistic reflections of language. The study concludes that the target readers' cultural background, ideological make-up and sociolinguistic perception can be altered due to the structural shifts in translating political news into Arabic. It shows that the structural shifts lead to specific deviations in the argumentative structure of the source text (ST) through argumentation or counter-argumentation.

Keywords: Source Language, Target Language, Ideology, Socio-cultural, Sociolinguistics, Morphosyntactic

التحويلات الهيكلية والجدلية في ترجمة التقارير الاخبارية من اللغة الانكليزية الى اللغة العربية من منظور اجتماعي - لغوي وثقافي

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جامعة الموصل

المستخلص

أصبحت السمات الاجتماعية والثقافية والأيدولوجية للترجمة بارزة لدرجة أن العديد من الدراسات عكفت على التحقيق في تحولات الترجمة الناتجة عن الانتقال اللغوي من لغة المصدر إلى اللغة الهدف . ان الهدف الأساسي من هذه المقالة هو إظهار طبيعة التحويلات الهيكلية (النحوية والشكلية) في الترجمة العربية للأخبار السياسية لهيئة الإذاعة البريطانية البي بي سي والتي قد تعزى إلى الاختلافات في الخلفيات الثقافية والأيدولوجية والاجتماعية اللغوية للمتحدثين باللغة المستهدفة (العربية). وينعكس عدم تجانس السياق الاجتماعي والثقافي الذي يتم من خلاله نقل الخطابات السياسية الإنجليزية والعربية في التحويلات النحوية في البنية الجمالية والعبارية في ترجمة هذه الاخبار. ويظهر النص الهدف توافقاً كبيراً مع السياق الاجتماعي والثقافي والأيدولوجي للغة الهدف على حساب البنية النحوية الشكلية للغة الاصل.

تتضمن منهجية البحث تحليل بعض المقتطفات الإخبارية لهيئة الإذاعة البريطانية وترجمتها الى اللغة العربية للتحقيق في التحولات الهيكلية في الترجمة. ويُظهر تحليل البيانات الذي تم إجراؤه باهتمام دقيق بالتفاصيل، أن الترجمة العربية تغير التراكيب اللغوية وتغير المفاهيم الاجتماعية والثقافية والأيدولوجية لقراء النص الهدف. يتم اعتماد منهجية مقارنة النص الاصل والنص الهدف لدراسة الاختلافات الهيكلية وأوجه التشابه والمحتوى الدلالي المكافئ. ويستعرض البحث أفكار حاتم (1997) حول الترجمة عبر الثقافات المختلفة وأفكار فيشمان (1972) حول الانعكاسات اللغوية الاجتماعية للغة. وخلصت الدراسة إلى أن الخلفية الثقافية والتكوين الأيدولوجي والتصور الاجتماعي اللغوي للقراء المستهدفين قد تتغير بسبب التحولات الهيكلية في ترجمة الأخبار السياسية إلى اللغة العربية. يوضح البحث أيضا أن التحولات التركيبية قد تؤدي إلى انحرافات محددة في البنية الجدلية للنص الاصل من خلال المجادلة أو المجادلة المضادة .

الكلمات الدالة : لغة المصدر، لغة الهدف، الأيدولوجية، الاجتماعية والثقافية، علم اللغة الاجتماعي، الصرفية والنحوية

1. INTRODUCTION

Translation has almost unanimously been conceived as a practice resulting from a communicative act in which ideologies, policies, and social experiences are revealed and communicated integrally in global interaction. Gerding-Salas (2000: 1) recognizes that translation is a solid platform for cross-cultural bilingual communication among people of different cultures. For Baker and Saldanha (2011: 12), translation, as well as adaptation, have the crucial role of establishing bridges across minds of different cultural backgrounds and languages.

Within the boundaries and function of translation, translators assume the role of intercultural communicators in the wider socio-cultural environment to achieve cross-cultural understanding. Gerding-Salas (2000:2) highlights the role of translators as mediators across different cultures to bridge linguistic gaps and communicate various ideas, concepts, conceptions, and perceptions by translating texts accurately. They also interact closely with the ST based on the previous acts of communication to seek immediate response from TT receivers. Hatim and Mason (1997: 10) depict the task of the translator as a communicator to maintain a consistent balance between the "effective" (communicative goal) and the "efficient" (user's resource) in an attempt to seek coherence in a particular communicative environment and for specific purposes and receivers. To accomplish their task, Shunnaq (1998: 43) refers to different strategies and techniques that can be utilized to convey the ST cultural terms in translation, such as transliterating, in which the SL term is phonetically converted into the TL, and paraphrasing, in which the rendered term is explained in a footnote (cited in Abdel Hafiz, 2002).

2. AN OVERVIEW OF COMMUNICATION ACROSS CULTURES

Hatim (1997: 13) notes that a deep and comprehensive analysis of an ST involves insightful consideration of its linguistic and cultural boundaries and that such mediation does not endorse a partial view of the content of that text. He proposes that any translation act involves the textual transfer of linguistic, rhetorical, social, and cultural conventions. He suggests that cultural elements play a vital role in communication and translation among nations.

According to Hatim, texts can be analysed based on sociolinguistic and cultural elements through mediated contexts and situations that are comprehensible and understandable to users of both languages to maintain mediation between different cultures (1997:157).

Hatim (1997:157) argues that cultural boundaries should be considered when viewing texts. These cultural limits and boundaries help establish SL rhetorical conventions to maintain the felicitous communication environment in which cultural elements are preserved and transmitted.

It has been argued that speakers of a specific language use persuasive strategies in communication settings that may differ distinctively from those used by speakers of another language. Language users use texts as carriers of ideological meaning, which may vary along a broad spectrum of changing socio-cultural norms. In this respect, cross-cultural communication is seen through structural forms of argumentation in which a statement is embraced and later substantiated or in which a claim is cited and refuted with a counter-claim to be approved substantially (Hatim & Mason, 1997: 107).

Regarding English and Arabic texts, Hatim (1997:173) discusses the cross-cultural competence of the translator in terms of the textual structure of argumentation, which is related to pragmatic factors and socio-cultural attitudes when studied from an intercultural perspective. Within this realm, counter-arguments and through-arguments are identified to be the main domains within which audiences of different cultures interact. In the first domain, arguments are skeptical, whereas those in the second are supportive. A thorough argument is characterized by a statement and an initial argument, subsequently substantiated. In contrast, the citation, rebuttal, and substantiation of an opponent's argument are the dominant characteristics of the former text type (counter-argument) (ibid: 107). The counter-argumentative structures incorporate two further structural formats: the balanced and the lopsided argument. A contrastive shift between a so-viewed claim and a counter-claim is included explicitly or implicitly in the structural format of balance. Hatim distinguishes an emphasis and a balance of varying degrees between the opposing facts or points of view reflecting different attitudes by text producers in the illustrations of the counter-argumentation structures in the literary and scientific discourse (1997:173).

Hatim (1997) views different cultural and sociolinguistic factors in translation as essential tools to understand the ST (source text), the TT (target text), and translation problems. Hatim's views help translators conceive the ST and TT data by being more careful when examining the data, as different lexical words/phrases/clauses can have different connotations in different nations and cultures. Kadhim (2011: 234) says that translators of political discourse should provide translation outputs with a simple structure, clear ideas, and plain language to be noticeably acceptable to a large number of readers who have different political, social, and ideological affiliations and come from different cultural backgrounds.

Hamdan and Hussein (2024: 287) highlight the impact of the translators' subjectivity and cultural awareness in literary translation. They argue that the translators of literary and culture-specific texts may act as cross-cultural mediators and introduce their social predispositions in the TTs which in certain instances contradict the ST.

3. SOCIOLINGUISTIC REFLECTIONS OF LANGUAGE

The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis in sociolinguistics shapes the sociology and behaviour of language as reality reflections and how people think and react in communicating with others from different cultural backgrounds. Whorf (1940, 1941) says that the cognitive functioning of language users is shaped by the various structural characteristics of language, which may differ considerably from one language to another. These structural variations play a pivotal role in determining the thought processes, making mutual understanding and translation hard but possible (cited in Fishman, 1972:286)).

Fishman (1968:6) argues that languages likely reflect regular sociocultural patterns, values, and orientations and that languages worldwide share significant structural universals. He highlights the sociological function of language, focusing on language as an asocial behaviour and medium of communication and interaction. In 1972, Fishman offered a sociolinguistic explanation and classification of language to avoid a more generalized classification of the entire language or entire societies.

Fishman's sociological enterprise of language focuses on the reciprocal relationship between language and identity and the interaction between language, language attitudes, and social patterns of behaviors towards language usage and language users (1972: 246). The societally patterned behaviors are directed towards the language or, through it, fall within the ambit of the social functionality of the language. Fishman's sociolinguistic views above hold that language reflects its speakers' socio-cultural values and orientations rather than being regarded as a direct consequence or constraint of its speakers' cognition.

Fishman (1972:299) focuses on language usage (*la parole*) and its cultural variation and social organisation, which is in line with other linguistic theories of language cognitive

function, such as Generative Grammar (Chomsky, 1965, 1981) and Minimalist Program (Chomsky, 1995). He maintains that language functions within the social setting in which it is used. He also adds that speech communities' perceptions, attitudes, and reactions merely reflect the language they communicate with. He considers verbal interaction structure and linguistic components observable and residual examples of linguistic relativity maintained in the Whorfian Hypothesis (1972: 310).

However, “success in persuasion requires more than a knowledge of the language,” as Kearns (1984: 49) mentions. Because of their cultural specificity, translating authentic argumentative texts will be difficult for EFL learners; they would probably translate them according to their semantic meaning without paying attention to their pragmatic interpretation. Following the same line of thought, Al-Khuli (2001: 8) insists on producing the same perlocutionary effect when translating from the source language to the target one. He believes that obtaining equivalent source and target texts is based on transmitting the same perlocutionary act. If the translator succeeds in rendering the same meaning from one language to another, then the translation will be considered equivalent, faithful and successful.

In summary, structural and stylistic shifts in the translation of English BBC news extracts into Arabic result in many changes or alterations in the propositional content of the SL extracts. These shifts ultimately deviate from the SL's social-communicative function and alter its argumentative purpose. The present research paper aims to show how these shifts affect the social and argumentative orientation of the translated SL, profoundly affecting the TL readers' cultural perceptions and stances.

4. DATA COLLECTION

The analyzed data used to verify research objectives are collected from the BBC news reports posted online in English on the official website of the press agency with their Arabic translation from January 2005 to April 2006. Political news extracts are meticulously collected in the current study as research cases for data analysis. The selected sample is intended to cover all types of argumentation to achieve as much variety as possible. However, only seven pieces of data are presented in this research article.

5. DATA ANALYSIS

Example. 1 http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4937416.stm

(a). **ST: ‘Bin Laden: West Waging a Crusade’**

In the recording, the fugitive Al-Qaida leader said the Western isolation and denial of aid to the Hamas-led Palestinian government is one such case.

(b). TT: "بن لادن: "حرب صليبيه غريبه ضد الاسلام"

قال اسامة بن لادن زعيم تنظيم القاعدة في تسجيل صوتي منسوب اليه ان تحرك الغرب لعزل الحكومة الفلسطينية بقيادة حماس يعني انه "في حرب ضد الاسلام"

The ST underlined constituents (the fugitive Al-Qaida leader) show the basic NP structure in (a) and its corresponding translation (زعيم تنظيم القاعدة) in (b):

(a) ...the fugitive al-Qaida leader...

(b) زعيم تنظيم القاعدة - 'Leader of Al-Qaida organization'

Lexically, the proper noun (القاعدة - al-Qaida) is borrowed in the ST in (1a) as a neologism in English to refer to this terrorist organization to maintain the same format of argumentation and, hence, the equivalent effect of the SL term. The translator used the exact determiner in the TT phrase in (1b), as evidenced by its transliteration in (1c). Syntactically, the same structural format of the determiner phrase is sandwiched between two constituents, the fugitive and the leader. The translator retained (al-Qaida) as an ST determiner phrase in the Arabic translation (1b). The ST noun phrase (al-Qaida leader), which has the structure [D-N] as in (a) above, was shifted to "زعيم تنظيم القاعدة" (*za'eem tandem Al-Qaida*), having the structure [N-N-D] in a TL constituent order as in (b).

This is due to the structural differences in modification between the two languages in terms of the structure of the noun phrase. The structure of the complex noun phrase in Arabic is more dependent on postmodification than premodification. The former takes several grammatical forms, such as noun phrases, adjectival phrases, and nouns in construct (addition). In addition, the translator resorted to addition and expansion as a translation procedure for rendering the complex noun phrase in question. The lexical item (تنظيم – *tandhem* – organization) is added to the Arabic translation for linguistic and sociopolitical considerations. The aforementioned lexical item is collocated with the name of this terrorist in almost all the political news bulletins and has become part of the Arabs' common knowledge.

On the other hand, the translator has resorted to the reduction (deletion) procedure in the Arabic translation of the SL NP, the fugitive al-Qaeda leader. This case of omission regards one element in the phrase – initial position (**fugitive**) to reduce the number of elements that form the SL noun phrase. Barik (1999: 122) postulates that such instances of "skipping omission" in which a single word such as a qualifying adjective, a short phrase, or some related event is left out in the translation generally do not result in a noticeable shift in the grammatical structure of the SL sentence or phrase and that they are often of minor importance as they involve little shift of meaning.

However, this is different here. Though there has been no evident shift in the structural format of the SL and TL NP: **the fugitive al-Qaeda leader** and **زعيم تنظيم القاعدة**, respectively, both being complex in structure with lower linguistic variety in the Arabic translation, there is obvious evidence of lower information load leading to some translation loss since a crucial piece of information relevant to the security status of (Bin Laden) who is the focus of the news report. The deleted premodifying adjective reveals that the leader of this terrorist organization is still at large but pursued and hunted down by most of the states in the world, which is a crucial piece of information to the readers. The translator must consider the principle of relevance if the reduction procedure should be adopted to avoid any political misunderstanding or ideological conflict. The omission case in this extract cannot be justified under any legitimate reason.

Argumentatively, these shifts in the structural formats of the noun phrases referring to Bin Laden's notorious reputation are, to some extent, the result of the translator's ideological perspectives and sociopolitical background. The translator's choice of the type of argumentation strategy relies heavily on these personal perspectives, which are reflected in their stylistic and lexical preferences. Through-argumentation is maintained in the ST and TT through the preservation of structural manifestations of the two texts. Nevertheless, a more direct through-argumentative approach is adopted by the SLT author, which the translator fails to comply with in the TLT. The translation loss caused by the translator's choice of deletion procedure causes the TLT to depart from a more direct type of through argumentation to a less direct one.

Example. 2 http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4937416.stm

(a) ST: 'Our goal is not defending the Khartoum government but to defend Islam, its land and its people'.

(b) TT: "ان هدفنا ليس الدفاع عن حكومة الخرطوم و انما الدفاع عن الاسلام و ارضه و شعبه"

If the ST extract is set against the TT one, it is noticed that the translator has been trying to adhere to the syntactic and stylistic structures of the ST and maintain similar structures and styles in TT. The structural-stylistic correspondence between the ST and TT texts is apparent at the clause level. Both are similar: one principal clause followed by a series of conjoined clauses. At the thematic level of the clause, the translator explicitly tries to maintain the same rhetorical effect and pragmatic appropriateness by preserving the SL author's equivalent syntactic structure and stylistic preferences and exhibiting an equivalent level of dynamic discourse.

Grammatically contrasted, the Arabic sentence is introduced by a complementizer ان (ena) meaning 'that', which has no formal equivalence in the SL sentence. Starting the nominal sentence with the particle (أن - ena) in Arabic emphasizes its content. In addition, there is an unmistakable introduction of the definite article (ال - (al) - the) in some of the

Arabic words such as *الخرطوم* (*al-Khartum*) ‘the Khartum’, *الدفاع* (*al-defa*) ‘the defence’, *الاسلام* (*al Islam*) ‘The Islam’. These definite articles do not exist in the ST text due to the grammatical differences in terms of reference (generic, partial, and unique) between Arabic and English.

This is in keeping with Hatim’s (1997) view that it is culturally inherent in Arabic to begin a sentence with a clause introducer, ‘a complementizer’, and to use a definite article when the content discourses call for the use of the definite article such as in the case of *الخرطوم* (*al Khartum*) ‘The Khartum’, *الدفاع* (*al defa*) ‘the defence’ to show the sharing of knowledge about entities. In many instances, such emphasis is realized by additional lexical items and the introduction of definite and indefinite articles, neither altering the argumentation typology and strategy nor the socio-pragmatic orientation of the SL text.

To restrict the analysis to the argumentative aspect, it is noted that the thesis imposed by the speaker (Bin Ladin) at the beginning of his speech is self-refuted and re-substantiated via the syntactic and stylistic structure of negation and exclusion the speaker himself adopted. The thesis is refuted by the grammatical structure of emphasis by negation, often used in classic and modern Arabic to emphasize a particular proposition in different types of discourse.

The translator semantically rendered the direct statement into the Arabic text (TT), focusing on the lexical items’ propositional content and the whole sentence. It is worth mentioning here that this kind of structural correspondence leading to explicit stylistic harmony is encouraged from a translation viewpoint to stay within the realm of the same or close to the SL argumentative strategy. Maintaining a similar argumentation, the complete translation seems to have reflected the SL propositional content to convey Bin Laden’s perspectives regarding his ideology towards Islamic nations worldwide and his endeavors to instigate the Islamic communities all over the world to embrace his extreme ideology and take part in his extreme violent extremist campaign to stand against the Western nations.

Example. 3 http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4715627.stm

(a) ST: Abbas Moves to Gaza for Pull-out

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas has announced he is moving his office to Gaza until the completion of Israel’s withdrawal from the territory.

(b) TT: عباس ينقل مقره الى غزة لمتابعة الانسحاب الاسرائيلي

اعلن الرئيس الفلسطيني محمود عباس انه سينقل مكتبه الى غزة حتى انتهاء الانسحاب الاسرائيلي من القطاع

A counter-argumentative tendency can be detected in the English version of the news report. The structure type form and the use of certain lexical items within mark the

counter-argumentation strategy, which the editor adopts based on the socio-political circumstances and background in which the supposedly happening event would have occurred. The preposition (until) determines the argumentation strategy and translation into Arabic, shifting the whole paragraph's proposition. The counter-argument strategy illustrated by the SL text suggests that moving the office of the Palestinian president is a step to defy and stand against the occupation of the Gaza Strip, and it will not be back until the whole occupation forces withdraw from it. It is a political sign of political resistance and utmost rejection of the expansion and annexation policies of the Israeli government in the occupied territories of Palestine.

There are two contradicting ideas in this proposition. The first refutes the other and is not an extension or a result of it. The citation of the claim exhibited here by the first clause, "Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas has announced he is moving his office to Gaza", is rebutted and refuted by the counter-claim "the completion of Israel's withdrawal from the territory" by the lexical evidence of the preposition "until" functioning as a conjunction which connects the two grammatical structures and semantically demonstrates that the first action would be finished when a specific point in time arrives in the future. It may be viewed as a counter-claim that implies counter-argumentation. However, the concept of rebuttal is rather implicitly glossed and, thus, might be interpreted as "Balance" in which a contrastive shift between the claim and counter-claim is signalled by the editor (SL text producer). Nevertheless, the balance in the ST is heavily oriented towards the counter-argumentation strategy.

No matter how awkward the SL sentence structure may seem to be, and even though the counter-argument strategy is explicitly verbalized in the ST, the translator fails to reflect upon the ST argumentation strategy and alters the explicit adversative reference of the conjunction in the source text which highly determines its rhetorical effect. Despite the awkwardness of the TL sentence structure, the TT reflects none but a through-argument proposition in which the first claim goes along with the second claim with no indication of rebuttal or debunking. The complete reliance on the literal strategy of translation, which in many translation instances can be effective, has put the translator into this critical translation complication. Though the TT transfers the gist of the SL message, it fails to convey the full translation equivalence of the translation unit, which happens to be the sentence in this case. The prototypic through-argument strategy, which the translator deploys in this case, envisages moving the office as a procedural action and not as a challenge and protest against the policies of the Israeli authorities. This is attributed to the translator's linguistic incompetence in comprehending the lexical meaning of the conjunction (until) and their inability to refer to the event's metalinguistic implications and socio-political environment.

In (b), the translator shifted the ST present tense progressive aspect of the verb phrase (he is moving) to a future tense simple aspect with the use of the time exponent refereeing to

futurity (س – sa – will) and (ينقل - *yanqel* - move). It is an optional shift since the translator could have used the imperfect form of the Arabic verb (ينقل) to match the ST verb form and still refers to futurity.

On the other hand, the translator maintained similar ST and TT sentence structures, [S (specifier) – I (inflection) –V (verb) –N (Noun)]. Although the sentence constituents' order in the basic structure is identical, the shift in the aspect in the two ST verb phrases (ST present tense, progressive aspect \geq TT past tense, simple aspect) (present tense, perfective aspect \geq present tense, simple aspect) goes in line with the Arabic language's inherent style. This adherence to the TT grammatical systems is congruent with the conceptualisation of the translation across cultural boundaries (Hatim, 1997).

In Fishman's (1972) sociolinguistic perspective, the shift in the grammatical systems of tense and aspect in the TT reflects how Arabic language users perceive and shape the outside world. Based on this view, the more similar the grammatical structures of any two languages, the higher the transparency. Thus, the translation from any of these two languages into another is a testimonial act as the ST TT producers work as active communicators, reflecting similar intentions within this similarity and transparency.

Example. 4 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29119831>

(a) ST: Iraq Poised to Choose a New Premier

A close ally of Ja'afri, he recently headed a committee that purged members of Saddam Hussein's Bath party from public life.

(b) TT: الجمعية الوطنية العراقية تنظر في ترشيح المالكي

**قد تراس في الاونة الاخيرة لجنة حظرت على يذكر ان المالكي وهو قيادي في حزب الدعوة الذي يرأسه الجعفري
اعضاء حزب البعث العراقي المشاركة في الحياة السياسية**

The translator rendered the English adverb “recently” in the TT as “في الاونة الاخيرة”. The ST and TT sentence structures are noticeably different in that the ST has the structure of [Subj-(ADV)-V-Object] word order, and this shifted to [Conj-I-V-P-ADV] structure in Arabic TT. The (N) subject (he) is omitted, and the TT sentence begins with a conjunction (و - wa). The translator used this variation when translating English adverbs into Arabic in congruence with Hatim's (1997) view of translation across different cultures. The translator followed a theme-sequence of arrangement not followed in the ST. The original text emphasizes banning the members of the old Bath Party from political life, and it was thus initially placed in the news. The TT places this argumentative part in the final position of the sentence with a different thematic progression.

On the other hand, the translator tried to emphasize the influence of the ally of Mr. Al-Ja'afri as a dominant figure in the new government and overlook the role of the Bath party in the previous regime. The translator tried to affect the TT readers by using a method of persuasion to highlight the position of the new vital players in the Iraqi political scene and their allies, focusing on the ban of the old regime's members and supporters from any form of participation in the political life in Iraq. Thus, the TT thematic and argumentative structures have a mid-degree of openness rather than a high degree of transparency due to the unbalanced argumentative structures of the translator and the ST writer. In this respect, Al-Marroof emphasizes that:

“The persuasion, in this case, seems to have a degree of transparency because it is highly connected with the hearer's belief or disbelief. Logical reasoning is a key factor in convincing the hearer” (2017:23).

Example. 5 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-52571220>

(a) ST: Iraq: A New Government and Prime Minister.

A spokesman said that the main Sunni coalition, the Iraqi Accord Front, has shown initial agreement with Mr. Maliki's nomination.

(b) TT: الجمعية الوطنية العراقية تنظر في ترشيح المالكي.

وذكر متحدث بأن جبهة التوافق العراقي وهي من أبرز الجماعات السنية كانت قد ابدت يوم الجمعة موافقتها المبدئية على ترشيح المالكي لمنصب رئيس الوزراء.

The implicit Counter-argumentative sense of the ST may be signalled by the undisputable geopolitical fact that Sunni and Shi'i sects in Iraq have been in constant confrontation to assume power since 2003. Though there is no explicit lexical indicator of this counter-argumentative orientation in the ST, the insertion of the nominal clause in the excellent comparison form can imply the text producer's proposition of counter-argumentation. Despite the sectarian conflict in the country, what is described in the ST as the leading Sunni Coalition expressed their initial acceptance of a Shiite politician assuming power in the country. This inserted grammatical structure renegotiates the text type structure, favoring the implicit balance type of counter-argumentative form.

On the one hand, the translator maintains the same text structure as the ST in the Arabic translation, with minor shifts due to the Arabic language's linguistic preferences. However, as recommended by Hatim and Mason (1997:112), the translator should have made the same implicit form of argumentation explicit in the Arabic translation.

On the other hand, the translator fails in his mission as a cross-cultural communicator in that they misinterpret the SL lexical item “Coalition”. The TL lexical equivalent provided by the translator reflects socio-cultural inadequacy. The Arabic equivalent, “الجماعات”

which means “Groups”, pictures the coalition as one of the sectarian groups in Iraq, such as Sunni, Shiite, Yazidi and Sabiaa-Mandaen rather than a group of Sunni factions. The translator fails to comprehensively and accurately present what this entity represents in Iraqi society to the TL reader.

Structurally, the ST noun phrase “The main Sunni coalition” has the [D’-adj-N’] structure. Conversely, the structure of the TT corresponding noun phrase was shifted by the translator into a complex conjoined noun phrase [conj-N-A-D’D’]:

“وهي من ابرز الجماعات السنية”

‘and- it is- one of the leading - the groups - the Sunni’

It is also noticeable that the translator shifted the structure of the ST noun phrase into Arabic with a different structure. The translator’s incongruent perception of the Arabic language drives this structural shift at the phrase level. He started the TT noun phrase with the conjunction (و - wa - and) with the necessary addition of the determiner to each noun (ال - al- the) to cope with the reference system in Arabic, which slightly matches the ST.

The propositional content of the ST noun phrase refers to the two main Iraqi ethnic factions and the political parties that represent them and share power with other less influential political and religious parties. In the country. These two groups, namely the ‘Shia group’ and ‘Sunni group’, are prominent players in the Iraqi political scene. The translator should have adequately understood the Iraqi political environment to avoid TT readers’ potential bias or misconception when translating into Arabic.

Translation transparency in this example needs to be maintained due to the structural differences between the ST and TT noun phrases. The TT structurally highlights the Iraqi prime minister’s nomination by mentioning the nominee’s name in the headline. The ST does not refer to the nominee’s name in the headline and mentions it only once. The ST argumentative structure is not conveyed in the TT one, where the nominee’s name is mentioned in the headline and inside the text. Such repetition reflects the argumentative attitude of the translator and thus alters the argumentative structure of the original text.

The translator used repetition to introduce the TT readers to his argumentative attitude. De Saussure identifies specific global strategies that can be used to change the readers’ or hearers’ minds. Repetition, numbers, acronyms, or non-linguistic devices are examples of such “manipulating strategies” (2005: 130).

Accordingly, the TT fails to have the same level of ST transparency due to the translator’s repetition strategy, which maintains a different thematization structure. The TT structure shifted the focus of factual or argumentative information by maximizing the

role of the prime minister's nominee. The low degree of transparency causes focus distraction to the ST reader by covertly attempting to attract more attention to the specific parts in the TT.

Example. 6 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-52571220>

(a) ST: **Iraq poised to choose new premier'**

Members of Iraq's new parliament meet on Saturday to vote on a new prime minister and other posts after months of wrangling over candidates.

(b) TT: الجمعية الوطنية العراقية تنظر في ترشيح المالكي

تعقد الجمعية الوطنية العراقية (البرلمان) اجتماعا اليوم السبت للمصادقة على عدد من المناصب السيادية في الدولة بما فيها اكثر هذه المناصب اثاره للجدل و هو منصب رئيس الحكومة .

The translation procedures the translator may have tried to opt for definitely resulted in significant translation loss despite the translator's attempt to undergo some structural shifts to palliate the loss. The compensations, deletions, and additions provided by the translator incur an unacceptable significant loss. On the one hand, the ST lexical items "members of", "new", "after months", and "candidates" are all deleted with no formal or dynamic equivalence compensation in the TT. On the other hand, "اجتماعا اليوم" (today Saturday), "عدد من" (several), "المناصب السيادية" (posts), "في الدولة" (in the state), "بما فيها" (including), and "منصب" (post) are added to the TT. From the semantic translation point of view, these additions and deletions are unjustifiable and unnecessary. What further distorts the TT is the improper rendering of the Iraqi political entity "Parliament" in the ST into "الجمعية الوطنية العراقية" (literally= Iraqi National League) in the TT, which has no existence at that time instead of "Iraqi Parliament" (مجلس النواب العراقي) in question in this context. Another instance of translation distortion is the inaccurate translation equivalence for the ST verb "Vote". The translator transposed the SL verb element of the SL sentence into the TL noun "المصادقة" (literally = approval). Such structural shifts and transpositions are deemed inappropriate and only result in severe translation loss in this case. The translator could have resorted to literal translation, considering the structural differences between the two languages to convey the closest meaning. Elaboration and expansion are among the prime characteristics of the Arabic language. However, they should be carefully deployed to reduce translation loss and create the same ST pragmatic effect upon the TT reader.

Argumentatively, the ST producer utilizes a structure that signals a balanced type of counter-argumentation. The contrastive shift is signalled in what may be viewed as a claim (Members ... to vote on a new prime minister and other posts) and a counter-claim (after months of wrangling over candidates) explicitly. The text fragment that concludes

the sentence demonstrates an explicit contrast in the propositional organization. Here, the ST writer reveals an explicit political disagreement and wrangling over the selection of candidates to assume high positions in the government due to the ethnic, religious and political unrest in the country (Iraq). It is essential to bring to the attention that the disagreement and controversy representing the opposing are over government posts in general and not only restricted to the post of prime minister. The intensity of opposition and controversy is at its highest level for the highest authoritative post of prime minister yet not signalled out clearly or explicitly in the ST.

In addition to the gratuitous structural shifts and inaccurate translation equivalents, the translator explicitly shows an argumentative alteration in the TT, shifting the counter-argumentation to a specific part of what can be viewed as a claim. As mentioned earlier, the counter-argumentation prevails over all the claims stated by the first fragment of the SL sentence. Nevertheless, the translator restricts the argumentation to only the post of prime minister by thrusting the conventional superlative structure “بما فيها اكثر هذه المناصب “ (literally = including the most controversial post which is the post of prime minister) at the end of the SL sentence. The shift implies a consensus among the Iraqi political parties over the other candidates who would assume the other cabinet posts, even the most controversial ones such as the defence, Interior, and foreign affairs ministries, which is not the case in Iraq. The ST fails to convey the same counter-argumentative structure and balance between different facts, driving the TT readers to arrive at relatively different conclusions and political attitudes.

6. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that the TTs reflect the same communicative and argumentative values of the conventionalized STs. The ST authors and the TT producers (translator) use propositional attitude indicators and force-modifying expressions or meta-discourse indicators in argumentation. In addition, the grammatical and stylistic shifts in the TT determine the argumentative mode, which in some instances may not match the ST one. Most of these shifts occur within the morphosyntactic structures (sentences, clauses and phrases) and grammatical functions of tense, aspect, verb combinations, etc.

The study also concludes that the translators used a clear, unsophisticated, and comprehensible language that different social classes in Iraq could sometimes understand at the expense of ST style or argumentation. In other words, they attempted to pitch the language of the TT to one standard that would be perceivable with a similar or different argumentative mode to the masses coming from social classes and educational and cultural backgrounds for more comprehensive readability. One of the analyzed extracts was ambiguously translated, while another received an “incorrect” representation.

Against such complex backgrounds, the study finds that the translators' political, social, and ideological backgrounds determine the translation strategy they use when rendering news from political discourse. Applying the selected strategy may preserve the ST's textual meta function and convey its argumentative structure in some cases. However, in other cases, more attention and care may be required to avoid distortion of the ST's communicative function and potential misconceptions about the TT reads.

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