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Decision Making in Translating English Polysemous Expressions into Arabic

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Abstract

Ambiguity is due to meaning which has more than one meaning. It may be due to several points, namely, pragmatic, phonetic, cultural, structural and grammatical. It means that words, phrases or any expressions have multiple meanings. The problem of this research is that these words or expressions could be interpreted into an ambiguous statement of target language. So, the translator will be confused to show the appropriate translation or rendering which stay as a ambiguous to source language. Added to these, some words as well as sentences have more than one meaning. So, according to words which have more than one meaning called lexical ambiguity whereas the sentence which has more than one meaning called syntactic ambiguity

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The study aims to translate the ambiguous structures from English into Arabic. For achieving this aim, the research hypothesises that the ambiguous structures of these expressions or words could be translated or interpreted via giving all things which they carry but not into unclear structures which belongs to source text.

Keywords: decision, translation, polysemy, structure, ambiguity

اتخاذ القرار في ترجمة المعايير الانكليزية متعددة المعاني الى العربية

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قسم الترجمة، كلية الآداب، جامعة الموصل، الموصل، العراق

المستخلص

يمكن القول بان الغموض ينشا من وجود كلمات محددة في لغة معينة اها عدة تعبيرات او معاني ويعود ذلك الى اسباب عديدة واهمها التداولية والدلالية والصوتية والثقافية والنحوية. ومن هذا المنطلق يمكن القول بان هذه الظاهرة تسبب مشكلة للمترجمين وسنحاول في بحثنا تفسير هذه الكلمات او العبارات إذا كانت غامضة عند ترجمتها الى لغة الهدف من عدمها بغية الوصول الى الترجمة المثلى.

يهدف البحث الى ترجمة التراكيب اللغوية المختارة من الانكليزية الى العربية حيث ان معظم الكلمات بل حتى الجمل لها أكثر من تفسير او معنى بحسب السياق ولتحقيق هذه الاهداف تفترض الدراسة ان التراكيب الغامضة لهذه العينات يمكن ترجمتها بعد تقديم وفهم جميع دلالاتها النحوية والتداولية والثقافية دون اللجوء الى البنى الغامضة في لغة الاصل.

الكلمات المفتاحية: القرار، الترجمة، تعدد المعاني، البنية، الغموض

1. Statment of Problem

Ambiguity in general can be considered as a problem for translator as well as interpreter because it depends on their knowledge and ability. To resolve this trouble, the translator should understand the accurate and intended meaning of ambiguous sentences.

As for the research's translators, we can recognize contradiction in translation. They translated ambiguous structure of source language into ambiguous one in the target language. So, this study is an try to cover this gab. Added to these, some words as well as sentences have more than one meaning. So, according to words which have more than one meaning called lexical ambiguity whereas the sentence which has more than one meaning called syntactic ambiguity.

2. Aims of Study

1. Studying and analysing ambiguous sentences and their grammatical structures of the data under study.
2. Using semantic translation and communicative translation by Newmark.
3. Trying to resolve the ambiguity when we translate anything from English into Arabic.

3. Hypotheses

This paper is hypothesized that:

1. It appears that there are no similarities among our translators who translate these sentences into Arabic such as style and clarity.
2. The translators arrived to appropriate procedure when they transfer these structures into Arabic.

4. Procedures of Study

1. Eight structures were chosen which we believe that they are ambiguous.
2. Findings data analysis was analysed in terms of comprehensive table.

5. Ambiguity

The word ambiguity in general means that a morpheme, phoneme, word or phrase could be interpreted into many meanings (Artstein 2005). The word heavy is a simple example about ambiguity which refers to traffic, road, or rain. So, each one of them has a different meaning.

6. Types of Ambiguity

AlSulaiman (2016) says that there is many types of ambiguity, namely:

1. Semantic ambiguity: it depends on the meaning.

Example. (Everyone is not here).

2. Pragmatic ambiguity: it means the study of language use.

Example. (The chicken is ready to eat).

3. Cultural ambiguity: Basnsnett (1990) states that culture is a life.

Example. (His face became black). Black refers to anger in English culture whereas in Arabic culture it refers to disgrace.

4. Structural ambiguity: it means that one sentence has more than one meaning. Example. (Clever boys and girls).

5. Lexical ambiguity: It means that word has more one meaning.

Example: (Mole) , it means either a dark skin in the face or small animal.

7. Newmark's Methods of Translation

Newmark (1981:52) states that semantic translation focuses on lexicons as well as a syntactic structure whereas communicative translation focuses on lexicons, syntactic structure and context. So, it means that semantic translation means what the sentence means which means locutionary act whereas communicative translation means what the speaker means which means illocutionary act. So, according to this study, it falls in both semantic and communicative field which can be link with locutionary , illocutionary and perlocutionary acts.

8. Translation and Data Analysis

Translation is replacing a text in one language to another text in another language taking into consideration lexicon, syntactic structure, semantic elements, pragmatic

elements as well as cultural norms. So, it is the transfer of meaning from one culture to another because each culture has its roles and should be taking into consideration.

According to data analysis, we took eight expressions into considerations then analyzing and translating them to see the similarities and differences between English and Arabic.

Source Text one

They were milking heifers.

Rendering one: heifers giving milk.

Rendering two: persons milking heifers.

TL Texts:

1. انهم يحلبون البقرات.
2. يحلبون البقرات.
3. انهن بقرات حلوب.
4. ان البقرات حلوبات.
5. انها بقرات حلوبة.

Text Analysis (1)

Subject	Semantic	communicative	Interpretation
1	+		2
2	+		2
3		+	1
4		+	1
5		+	1

According to these translations, we see that first two translators translated the texts into semantic translation taking into consideration the second meaning whereas the third, fourth and fifth translator translated them communicatively considering the first meaning.

Proposed rendering:

1. انهم يحلبون البقرات الحلوب.

2. انهن بقرات حلوب

Source Text two

Twenty Six soldiers went to restaurant.

Rendering one: their number was 26 one.

Rendering two: their number was 20 but they are sick. (Twenty sick soldiers)

TL Texts:

1. دخل ستة و عشرون جنديا الى المطعم.
2. حضر ستة و عشرون جنديا الى المطعم.
3. ستة و عشرون جنديا دخلو المطعم.
4. دخل عشرون جنديا مريضا الى المطعم
5. دخل ستة و عشرون جنديا الى المطعم.

Text Analysis (2)

Subject	Semantic	communicative	Interpretation
1	+		1
2	+		1
3	+		1
4		+	2
5	+		1

According to these translations, we see that all translators translated the texts into semantic translation taking into consideration the first meaning except the fourth one who translated it communicatively.

Proposed rendering:

1. دخل ستة و عشرون جنديا الى المطعم.
2. دخل عشرون جنديا مريضا الى المطعم.

Source Text Three

I saw a bat in the forest.

Rendering one: bat means stick.

Rendering two: bat means bird.

TL Texts:

1. رايت خفاشا في الغابة.
2. رايت مضربا في الغابة.
3. رايت مضربا في الغابة.
4. رايت خفاشا في الغابة.
5. رايت مضربا في الغابة.

Text Analysis (3)

Subject	Semantic	communicative	Interpretation
1	+		2
2	+		1
3	+		1
4	+		2
5	+		1

According to these translations, we see that all translators translated the texts into semantic translation taking into consideration that the word has more than one meaning.

Proposed rendering:

1. رايت خفاشا في الغابة.
2. رايت مضربا في الغابة.

Source Text Four

I like my brother more than my sister.

Rendering one: my love to my brother is the first than sister.

Rendering two: my love to my brother is bigger than my sister's love.

TL Texts:

1. احب اخي اكثر من اختي.
2. احب اخي اكثر من شقيقتي.
3. احب اخي اكثر من اختي.
4. احب اخي اكثر من اختي.
5. حبي لآخي يفوق حب اختي له.

Text Analysis (4)

Subject	Semantic	communicative	Interpretation
1	+		1+2
2	+		1+2
3	+		1+2
4		+	2
5		+	2

According to these translations, we see that first three translators translated the texts into semantic translation taking into consideration the second meaning whereas the fourth and fifth translator translated them communicatively translation.

Proposed rendering:

1. احب اخي اكثر من اختي.
2. حبي لآخي يفوق حب اختي له.

Source Text Five

John and Layla are married.

Rendering one: both are married.

Rendering two: he was her husband.

TL Texts:

1. جون و ليلي متزوجان.

2. جون و ليلي متزوجان.
3. جون و ليلي كلاهما متزوجان.
4. جون متزوج من ليلي.
5. ليلي متزوجة من جون .

Text Analysis (5)

Subject	Semantic	communicative	Interpretation
1	+		1+2
2	+		1+2
3	+		1+2
4	+		1+2
5		+	2

According to these translations, we see that the first four translators translated the texts into semantic translation whereas the fifth one translated it communicatively.

Proposed rendering:

1. جون و ليلي متزوجان.
2. جون متزوج من ليلي.

Source Text Six

The teacher said, on Monday, I would have a lecture.

Rendering one: the lecture on Monday.

Rendering two: he said that on Monday.

TL Texts:

1. قال الاستاذ يوم الاثنين ساحضر المحاضرة.
2. في يوم الاثنين قال الاستاذ ساحضر المحاضرة.
3. قال الاستاذ ساحضر المحاضرة يوم الاثنين.
4. قال الاستاذ ستكون المحاضرة في يوم الاثنين.
5. قال الاستاذ في يوم الاثنين ساحضر المحاضرة.

Text Analysis (6)

Subject	Semantic	communicative	Interpretation
1	+		1
2	+		1
3	+		1
4		+	2
5		+	2

According to these translations, we see that the first three translators translated the texts into semantic translation whereas the fourth and fifth one translated it communicatively.

Proposed rendering:

1. قال الاستاذ يوم الاثنين ساحضر المحاضرة.
2. في يوم الاثنين قال الاستاذ ساحضر المحاضرة.

Source Text Seven

Look to that old woman with (1) eye.

Rendering one: the woman has one eye.

Rendering two: close your first eye.

TL Texts:

1. انظر الى تلك المرأة المسنة بعين واحدة.
2. انظر الى تلك المرأة المسنة بعين واحدة.
3. انظر الى تلك المرأة المسنة بعين واحدة.
4. بعين واحدة انظر الى تلك المرأة المسنة.
5. انظر الى تلك المرأة المسنة ذو العين الواحدة.

Text Analysis (7)

Subject	Semantic	communicative	Interpretation
1	+		1+2
2	+		1+2
3	+		1+2
4		+	2
5	+		1

According to these translations, we see that first, second, third and fifth translators translated the texts into semantic translation taking into consideration that the sentence has more than one meaning whereas the fourth translator translated it communicatively.

Proposed rendering:

1. انظر الى تلك المرأة المسنة بعين واحدة.
2. انظر الى تلك المرأة المسنة ذو العين الواحدة.

Source Text Eight

The university opens to staff and employees only on Sunday in summer.

Rendering one: members and employees can enter university.

Rendering two: they should attend on Sunday.

TL Texts:

1. ان الجامعة مفتوحة لاجزاء الهيئة التدريسية و الموظفين فقط في يوم الاحد اثناء الصيف.
2. ان الجامعة مفتوحة لاجزاء الهيئة التدريسية و الموظفين فقط في ايام الاحد اثناء الصيف.
3. ان الجامعة مفتوحة لاجزاء الهيئة التدريسية و الموظفين في يوم الاحد اثناء الصيف.
4. ان الجامعة مفتوحة لاجزاء الهيئة التدريسية و الموظفين فقط في يوم الاحد اثناء الصيف.
5. ان الجامعة مفتوحة لاجزاء الهيئة التدريسية و الموظفين يوم الاحد في الصيف.

Text Analysis (8)

Subject	Semantic	communicative	Interpretation
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1	+		1+2
2	+		1+2
3	+		1+2
4	+		1+2
5		+	2

According to these translations, we see that the first four translators translated the texts into semantic translation whereas the last one translated it communicatively.

Proposed rendering:

1. ان الجامعة مفتوحة لاجزاء الهيئة التدريسية والموظفين فقط في يوم الاحد اثناء الصيف.
2. ان الجامعة مفتوحة لاجزاء الهيئة التدريسية و الموظفين في يوم الاحد فقط اثناء الصيف.

Conclusion

One can say that ambiguity may be occur when the word or sentence has more than one meaning. It arises via wrong using or confuses of syntactic structure of sentences. It also plays an important role in humor. It is due to meaning which has more than one meaning. It may be due to several points, namely, pragmatic, phonetic, cultural, structural and grammatical. It means that words, phrases or any expressions have multiple meanings.

According to this paper, the reader will see that different translators were used different style as well as structure when they were translated the examples. Some of them translated the sentences semantically whereas others translated them communicatively. Added to these, English and Arabic are not belonging to same family and each one of them has its roles in translation and for this reason the translator should be bilingual as well bicultural.

Finally, one can say that there is no one to one formal corresponds between any two cultures. So, this means that some ambiguous structure can be translated into clear structure whereas others can be translated into ambiguous one.

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