

On Text Type Translation: Strategies Used in English Arabic Informative and Expressive Parallel Corpora

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ملخص:

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل مختلف استراتيجيات الترجمة المستعملة لترجمة نوعين من النصوص: الإخبارية والتعبيرية من اللغة العربية إلى اللغة الانجليزية، كما تسلط الضوء على الاختيار الواعي، من طرف المترجم، لطرائق معينة في ترجمته للنص الأصلي مع الأخذ بعين الاعتبار هدف (skopos) الترجمة. والأهم من ذلك هو دراسة العلاقة بين أنواع النصوص (الإخباري والتعبيري على وجه الخصوص) واستراتيجيات الترجمة.

Abstract

This study aims at analysing different translation strategies used in two different text types: informative and expressive, from Arabic into English. It aims at exploring how the translator, consciously, opts for specific translation strategies to render the source text, taking into account the skopos of the translation (content, code, reader). More importantly, this study explores the relationship between text type (namely expressive and informative) and translation strategies.

Key Words: Text Type, Text Genre, Translation, strategies of Translation.

I- Theoretical Background

I.1. The Notion of Text Typology

The notion of text typology has been the topic of research in different language related fields including ELT and Translation. However, the term '**Text Type**' has been used interchangeably with the term '**Text Genre**'. Consequently, a gloom has not only obscured both concepts, but also led students/ teachers to avoid their use as specific and clear cut terms in practical activities (linguistic activities), including Translation. In other words, the decreasing interest in clarifying the notions of text type and text genre in the classroom did not motivate learners to think first about the text type/genre and then translate.

Reiss and Vermeer (2013) state that despite the phenomenon of text genre was discussed in linguistics and literary studies, it was not so in Translation Studies. They indicate that "Koller (1979), for example, does not even list the term in his index, whereas Wilss (1977-1982) uses it rather frequently, without however discussing the concept in detail". (Reiss and Vermeer, 2013,p. 155).

The notion of text has been the subject of different researches that did not lack a clear but different definition of what a text is. Halliday and Hasan (1976) define text as being "used in linguistics to refer to any passage, spoken or written, of whatever length that does form a unified whole" (p. 01). A text can be written or spoken, and is directed towards different aims of language.

A text can be a poem or comedy, a political speech or an interview, a sermon or a TV ad. The term discourse is also used interchangeably with the term text, and is seen as a dynamic concept which is about the process of text production and text comprehension, whereas the term text is a static concept that can be subject to linguistic analysis for different purposes.

Matters of cohesion and coherence as well as other standards of textuality constitute an important topic for text linguistic studies. However, "the new discipline of text linguistics had hardly become established in modern linguistics when the problem of text

classification increasingly shifted to the centre of attention” (Reiss and Vermeer, 2013, p.155). This means that the scope of research became broader than before.

Attempts to analyse patterns of text composition as well as specific features of texts aimed at finding a basis for a systematic approach to the entire cosmos of texts, but still the problem of terminology concerning the concept of text genre and text type persisted. The new approaches considered language as a social action within communicative situations, launching by this a functional approach to language by describing linguistic structure and phenomena “by reference to the notion that language plays a certain part in our lives; that it is required to serve certain universal types of demand” (Halliday1971, stated in Trosborg 1997, p11). This reflects the influence of the functional approach to language on the social theory of language posited by Halliday and his colleagues in Britain in the 1960’s and1970’s.

I.2. Language Variation: Register, Genre and Text Type

We cannot deal with the notion of language variation (that led later to the notions of genres, registers and text types) without reference to the valuable contribution of Malinowski and Firth concerning context of situation and culture as well as meaning and language variation.

Malinowski (stated in Hatim &Mason,1990) worked with people from a remote culture and was faced with the problem of how to portray his findings in English. That is to say, what translation method he would use; free, literal, or translation with commentary. This latter was used “to situationalize the text by relating it to its environment (verbal and nonverbal) which he called: context of situation including the culture in which it was produced” (Malinowski, stated in Hatim &Mason, 1990, p.36)

J Firth (stated in Hatim &Mason,1990), on the other hand, maintained that the study of meaning was the *raison d’être* of linguistics. Meaning should be viewed according to function in context. In this way, meaning can be said, as well, to be the *raison*

d'être of Translation. After all, as linguistics, translation's main concern is 'meaning'.

Register (field, mode, and tenor) is seen under the framework of language variation according to user. The field of discourse refers to the subject matter (political, law..). It is an indicator of the difference between the variety of texts that can be produced in different domains. Mode of discourse is about the medium of language activity; written or spoken. Tenor of discourse is about the relationship between the addresser and addressee : polite, formal, informal.

It is noteworthy to state that the interest in discourse structure revived interest in an old crucial topic in rhetoric; "two traditions of classifying texts run through the 2.400 year-old history of rhetoric, both deriving from Aristotle's rhetoric" (Trosborg,1997, p.12).

Trosborg (1991) reveals that one tradition's classification of texts is according to purpose, while the other is by type. However, we find it important to clarify, in this context, both notions of genre and text type.

I.2.a. Genre Vs Text Type

The notion of genre was seen to have more attention than that of text type. Mainly in ELT during the recent years and the effect of this unbalanced care of the two notions was that "the terms 'genre' and 'text type' seem to have been conflated, with the term 'genre' being used to include both of these notions" (Paltridge,1996, p.237). In this sense, Biber (1988, stated Paltridge,1996) drew a distinction between both concepts after analysing 23 genres and under 1 million word only. Dudley Evans (1989;77, stated in Paltridge,1996) indicated that Biber (1988) sees the term genre as categorizing texts on the basis of external criteria while text types include groupings of texts that are similar in linguistic criteria (internal criteria), regardless of genre. In this case, we consider prayers, poems, songs and sermons as being genres because they occur in society (external criteria) and informative , expressive, argumentative text as text type.

It is obvious then that a genre can represent different text types and at the same time linguistically similar texts from different genres represent one single type.

In the following, we will discuss the notion of text type with reference to translation, and more specifically under the functional approach to translation.

I.3 Text types and Functional approaches to Translation

The notion of text type as seen by Reiss, Newmark, Jakobson stems from Bühler's three main functions of language. Peter Newmark (2003, 39) put it forward: "I am taking Bühler's functional theory of language as adapted by Jakobson as the one that is most usefully applied to translating". Bühler's three main functions of language are the informative, the expressive and the vocative function. For him, the main purposes of using language is to express one's feelings, represent reality and make an appeal. Jakobson's functions of language include, on the other hand, six factors of communication: context, addresser, addressee, contact, common code and message. When the focus is on the addresser, the language function is emotive/expressive, while it is the conative/directive function when the focus is on the addressee. Focus on the context results in a referential/informative function, but it is phatic when focus is on the contact. The poetic/aesthetic function results from focus on the message, and finally, we fulfil the metalinguistic function when we focus on the code (language).

Newmark's functions are not different from Jakobson's as he (Newmark,2003,44) emphasizes: "I have opted the Bühler-Jakobson functions of language operationally as the most convenient way of looking at a text for translation". He adds: "it is useful to divide texts by topic into three broad categories: (a) literary; (b) institutional; and (c) scientific- the latter including all fields of science and technology". (Newmark,2003,44).

I.4 Reiss's Functional Division of Text Types and its Relation to Translation

Reiss's text typology was proposed in relation to translation strategies and methods. According to her, the text can be classified

into three types: content focused, form focused and appeal focused texts. Later, she added the audiomedial text. Newmark, on the other hand, proposes his text typology according to six language functions: the informative, the expressive, the vocative, the phatic, the aesthetic and the metalingual functions. He sees that the three first ones are the most important. Both scholars linked text typology to translation methods. Newmark (2003) puts forward eight translation methods. They are: literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, communicative translation, idiomatic translation, free translation, word for word translation and adaptation. For him (2003), only semantic and communicative translation fulfil the two aims of translation: accuracy and economy. The way in which Reiss links text typology to translation is summarized in the following table.

Text Type	Informative	Expressive	Operative
Language Function	Informative/ representing objects and facts	Expressive expressing sender's attitude	Appellative (making an appeal to text receiver)
Language Dimension	Logical	Aesthetic	Dialogic
Text Focus	Content- focused	Form-focused	Appellative focused
TT should	Transmit referential content	Transmit aesthetic form	Elicit desire response
Translation Method	Plain prose, explicitations as required	Identifying method adopting perspective of ST author	Adaptive , equivalent effect

**Functional Characteristics of Text Types and Links
to Translation Methods (adapted from Reiss 1971)**

Munday (2001, p.174)

It is obvious that there is a relationship between the ST and the translation method. In fact, the adopted translation method for a specific text type helps in preserving some text features as function, dimension, focus and type. In other words, if the text is informative we opt for plain prose and explicitations to transmit the referential content in the target text, i.e., keeping the same text type (informative). If the text is expressive, we should focus on the aesthetic form in the TT, and adopt a perspective of ST author, and finally, if the text is operative and we need a TT which elicits the desired response from its audience, we use an adaptive-equivalent effect translation method. Newmark's proposed translation methods are, however, more explicit and specific.

1.5 Translation Methods by Peter Newmark

In his 'A Textbook of Translation' (2003), Peter Newmark explains different translation methods that can be used during the translation process and indicates its relationship to text categories.

- 1. Word for word translation:** the SL word order is preserved and words are translated out of context by their most common meanings.
- 2. Literal translation:** again, the lexical words re translated out of context, but the grammatical constructions are converted into the TL equivalents.
- 3. Faithful translation:** the precise contextual meanings of the SL are translated within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures. It is faithful to the SL text and writer.
- 4. Semantic translation:** it gives more importance to the aesthetic value of the SL text than faithful translation. Cultural words are translated by culturally neutral third or functional terms and not by cultural equivalents.
- 5. Adaptation;** Newmark sees it as the freest form of translation. It is used for plays (comedies) and poetry; the SL culture is converted to the TL culture and ST is rewritten.

6. **Free translation:** it reproduces content without the form of the original. It is a longer paraphrase than the original.
7. **Idiomatic translation:** it reproduces message of the original. It includes the use of colloquial and idiomatic expressions absent in the ST.
8. **Communicative translation:** it renders the exact contextual meaning of the original text, making both the content and language comprehensible to the readership.

Newmark (2003) believes that only communicative and semantic translation fulfil translation aims: accuracy and economy. He (2003) states that “in general, a semantic translation is used for ‘expressive’ texts’, communicative for ‘informative’ and ‘vocative’ texts” (p.47). It is obvious that the link between translation methods and text types is reflected by the method that the translator may use in a specific text. For an informative text, the proposed method is communicative while for the expressive text it is the semantic one.

In the following, we attempt to analyse translation methods used in two different text types: informative and expressive. We will then shed light on the importance of the analysis’ outcomes obtained in the field of Translation.

II. Analysis of Data in Text 01 and Text 02

II.1. Description of the Data

The analysed structures include 14 Arabic- English translation units from two different texts. The first text is an informative and was first published on 25/10/2014 in Arabic. It was written by Alaa Halabi and translated by Smir Joe Abboud, El Monitor. It is entitled ‘**Trees in Syria Becoming Lurcative Business**’. The second text is expressive parallel text taken from an Arabic-English corpus entitled ‘**Modern Arabic Short Stories**’ pp.17-18. It is entitled ‘**The Tale of The Lamp**’ written by Izz al-Din al-Madani and translated by Ronak Husni and Daniel L.Newman.

II.2. Method of Analysis

The source texts will be fragmented first into translation units. Description of both ST and TT translation units will consider the translation methods used in relation to the skopos of the translation (code, content, and readership) and compare the results with the translation methods proposed in the literature by Reiss and mainly Newmark. The study will include conclusions about the implications and outcomes of the analysis in the field of translation.

The term **TU** refers to Translation unit, **SS** to source structure and **TS** to target structure

II.3. Analysis of Translation Units in Text 01 (The Informative Text)

Source Structure	Target Structure	Translation Method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TU1 <p>الثروة الحرجية في سوريا تزول تدريجياً ما لم تلتهمه الحرب.. صار حطباً للشقاء!</p>	Trees in Syria becoming lucrative business	Modulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TU2 <p>تسببت آلة الحرب الدائرة في سوريا منذ أكثر من ثلاثة أعوام بدمار كبير طال الحضارة السورية، بكل مقوماتها، من دون أي استثناء، من بشر وحجر وشجر، سواء بشكل مباشر أو غير مباشر</p>	The war raging in Syria for more than three years now has caused major destruction that has affected the Syrian civilization on all levels. It has spared no human, stone or tree component, be it directly or indirectly.	Literal Translation Omission Modulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TU3 <p>لتخضب آلة الحرب مروج سوريا الخضراء وغاباتها باللون الأحمر تارة، أو تحولها سوداء مفحمة تحكي قصة حريق نشب هنا، وعائلة تدفع عنها البرد بالنار هناك</p>	The war has at times set Syria's green forests on fire, while it has subjected them to woodcutting (for heating) at other times.	Modulation (the TL rejects literal translation) Reduction

<p>• TU4</p> <p>وبالرغم من عدم وجود غابات كبيرة في سوريا (مساحة الغابات الطبيعية في سوريا تبلغ 232.8 ألف هكتار) إلا أن الغابات التي كانت موجودة قبل بدء الحرب كانت بمثابة رئة للدولة</p>	<p>Even though there are no large forests in Syria (natural forests in Syria cover 232.8 hectares [575 acres]), the forests that existed before the start of the war served as a lung for this Mediterranean state.</p>	<p>Literal Translation+ explication</p>
<p>• TU5</p> <p>التي سعت قبل العام 2011 الى توسيع رقع المساحات الحرجية و الغابات، و اولتها اهتماما كبيرا في ظل حالة أمنية ممتازة و رخاء وصل الى مراحل متقدمة جعل من هذه المساحات من أولويات الحكومة، و الفعاليات الاجتماعية، و حتى الثقافية،</p>	<p>Syria sought to expand the forest area patches before 2011. It granted them major attention amid excellent security and prosperity that reached advanced stages and turned these spaces into one of the priorities of the government, as well as [the scene of] social and cultural events.</p>	<p>Literal Translation + Explication</p>
<p>• TU6</p> <p>لتأتي الحرب و تبدأ هذه الثروة بالزوال تدريجيا</p>	<p>Then war broke out and led this wealth to gradually disappear.</p>	<p>Modulation (cause- effect)</p>
<p>• TU7</p> <p>لا احصاءات حول حجم الضرر الذي لحق بالغابات و المناطق الحرجية في سوريا، الدولة ذات الطابع الزراعي، و التي يعرف ابناءؤها قيمة الشجر و أهميته،</p>	<p>There are no statistics about the extent of the damage to forest areas in Syria, the agricultural country whose citizens appreciate the value and importance of trees.</p>	<p>Literal+ Omission</p>

- In **TU1**, the strategy used by the translator is modulation, because the source structure's content is expressed differently, from a different point of view as Gerard Hardin & Synthia Picot (1990) state: "a change in point of view that allows us to express the same phenomenon in a different way" (stated in Zakhir,2008). For instance, there is no reference to the '*revolution of patches*' or '*wood for winter*', but this pragmatic procedure helped the translator to state the '*lucrative business*' existing behind trees in Syria.
- In **TU2**, the firstly detected translation procedure used by the translator is literal translation. The grammatical structure is translated according to the constraints of the **TL**. However, the use of '*on all levels*' instead of 'مقوماتها' Engages the use of modulation. In addition, the non-existence of 'من دون أي استثناء' '*without exception*' as in the source text adds another procedure : omission. A triplet is then used to translate **TU2**.
- In **TU3**, the **TL** seems to reject literal translation, especially at the lexical level as لتخضب آلة الحرب مروج سوريا الخضراء و غاباتها أو تحولها سوداء مفحم تحكي قصة حريق باللون الأحمر is translated into '*set on fire*'. Omission is obviously used because of the absence of قصة حريق أو تحولها سوداء مفحم تحكي قصة حريق in the target structure. Modulation is clearly used in the translation of the two last clauses. A clouplet (reduction + modulation) is used to translate **TU3**.
- **TU4** is literally translated, because the grammatical structure is kept within the constraints of the **TL**. Explication is used to translate '*hectares*' into '*acres*'. It can be stated in this case that the translator is aware about the receptor of the translation (**English speaking receptors**) who usually use acre instead of hectar. A couplet is used in this unit of translation.
- Literal translation is used in **TU5**. The grammatical structure reveals how one can easily detect the content of both the source and target structures even though the whole **TU** is longer than the previous ones.

- The translation procedure used in **TU6** unit is modulation, and more specifically cause-effect. It is obvious that the choice made in translating ‘**started**’ into ‘**led to**’ has a direct effect on the selected translation strategy. A possible translation would be: ‘*then the war broke out and wealth started to gradually disappear*’. We can say that the choice of a lexical item rather than another may determine the translation procedure used to render a specific structure.
- From a linguistic point of view, **TU7** seems to be incomplete. More than that, even the source structure in **Arabic** is incomplete and a poor translation of an incomplete idea. However, literal translation and omission are the used procedures. الغابات و المناطق الحرجية is reduced to ‘*forest areas*’.

II.4. Analysis of Translation Units in Text 02 (The Expressive)

<p>• TU1 اشتهيت الأزداد و أنا ببغداد عفواً</p>	<p>“I found myself in Baghdad, yearning the <i>azad date</i>...”</p>	<p>Adaptation + Transliteration+ explicitation</p>
<p>• TU2 بل زعموا و الله أعلم، أن سنة من الجفاف ، والقحط، و المحل، والمجاعة، و المسغبة، عفانا الله و أياكم، قد نزلت نزول الصاعقة على احدى العواصم المغربية، كأن تقول القيروان أو فاس، سجلماسة أو قفصة أو المهديّة في العهد القديم الغابر.</p>	<p>They claimed and God knows it was true- that it was a year of drought and famine (may God preserve us all!), which had struck like lightning in one of the ancient capital cities of the Maghrib such as Qayrawan, Fes, Sijilmasa, Gafsa or Mahdia.</p>	<p>explicitation+ Reduction+Modulation (God and not Allah)+ transliteration</p>

<p>• TU3 فانعدم القوت فخرج الناس الى الصحراء يطلبون الصبار و الحشائش البرية لسد الرمق فلم يجدوا شيئاً</p>	<p>Food run out, and people went into the desert to look for cacti and grass to assuage their hunger</p>	<p>Literal + Omission</p>
<p>• TU4 فأكلوا الطحلب و الحجر، و آثروا الموت على الحياة بعد انقطاع آمالهم.</p>	<p>After their hopes had been dashed, they preferred death over life.</p>	<p>Omission + Literal</p>
<p>• TU5 وقانا الله و اياكم سنوات الظلم و الشر و الجوع، أمين !</p>	<p>May God preserve us from oppression, evil and hunger!</p>	<p>Omission+ transposition (using a grammatical structure to replace a lexical gap)+ adaptation</p>
<p>• TU6 و توالى سنوات الجذب سبعا الى أن بركت الجمال و صارت لا تقوى حتى على حمل سنامها.</p>	<p>The drought lasted for seven years until the camels knelt down, too weak even to carry the humps on their backs.</p>	<p>Literal+ Explication</p>
<p>• TU7 الله لطيف بعباده المؤمنين</p>	<p>God is kind to the believers!</p>	<p>Literal+ modulation</p>

- **TU1** includes the use of adaptation, because the TL expression is a rewriting of the original one and it conforms to the TL. Omission is also used in this translation unit, *afwan* is not rendered in the target structure, and this is one of the three main procedures of adaptation (cultural substitution, paraphrase, omission) proposed by Monia Bay (2007, stated in Zakhir 2008). The transliteration of بغداد into **Baghdad** is very logical choice since there is no other word that can replace it. However, the word أزاد in Arabic was translated into **the azad date** and here both transliteration and explicitation are used. This might be justified by the translator's skopos to clarify that Azad in Arabic is a type of date.
- **TU2** in this unit of translation four procedures are used. They are:
 - **Explicitation:** addition of *it was true* in the TL, the translator could have opted for example for: they claimed, but God is the Omniscient/most knowledgeable.
 - **Omission** of الجفاف و القحط و المحل into *drought and famine*, because of near synonymy in the SL.
 - **Modulation:** the choice of *God* rather than *Allah* is a shift in point of view; Muslims say *Allah* rather than *God*. This choice may open a larger readership/ acceptability to the text because language and culture go hand in hand together with religion. '*ancient capital cities*' in the TL is stated in the ST as '*in one of the capital cities*' in '*the very far time*'. Since the capital city dates back to ancient time, the translator used the modifier ancient to describe the capital cities, and this is again a modulation; a shift in point of view.
 - **Transliteration of proper names:**
 - القيروان into Qayrawan, فاس into Fes, سجلماسة into Sijilmasa,
 - قفصة into Gafsa
 - المهدية into Mahdia

- In **TU3**, the use of literal translation is clear in the grammatical organisation of the TS. The Omission of **فلم يجدوا شيئا** can be justified by the principle of relevance, because this information will be supplied implicitly in the next TU (**TU4**). The translator might be interested in the way of knitting a coherent translation and consequently he opted for omission.
- **TU4** is obviously linked to the previous TU. The omission of **فأكلوا الطحلب و الحجر** might be justified by the fact that **'they preferred death over life'** implies this. However, the omitted information can be considered as very important element in the ST. The overall structure is literally translated, according to the grammatical rules of the English language.
- In **TU5**, omission is used in discarding **سنوات** and **آمين** from the TS. Transposition is involved by the use of the grammatical structure **May God preserve us** to replace the lexical gap of **آمين**. Adaptation is revealed in **May God** to replace **آمين**.
- **TU6** is literally translated because the grammatical target structure conforms to English language rules. Meaning is clearly transmitted, especially with the use of explicitation by adding **'their backs'**, though the verb **to carry**, in this context, implies **to carry on their backs**.
- **TU7** is obviously literally translated. Modulation as earlier stated is used by choosing to translate **Allah** into **God** and also **عباده المؤمنين** into **the believers**.

III. The Implications of this Study in Translation

From what has been analysed earlier, it can be held true that the choice of a specific translation method(s) is not governed by a specific type of text, because within the same translation unit, i.e., piece of the text, one can detect more than two translation methods used to render the source structure. For example, adaptation can be used to render or make a cultural term accessible in the target language/ culture, but at the same time we can keep some other features of the source culture like proper names intact in the target one as **Fes**, **Gafsa**. Hence, adopting a ST author perspective to

translate an expressive text is not always followed. The use of adaptation by the translator seems to be linked to the focus attributed to the code/ language of the expressive discourse. Clarifications of a specific cultural term add more value to language and makes it different from ordinary language. When we choose to say *a summer's cloud*, we mean it is not the same as *a cloud on a summer's day*. However, when it is hard to find the cultural counterpart, the skopos shifts to the content and readership.

It can be held true that explicitations are used to translate an informative text. However, other translation strategies as omission, literal translation and modulation are used. In fact, we cannot limit the translation of a specific text type to a specific translation strategy, simply because translation is not an exact science.

The students/translators are meant to be aware about the skopos of their translations as well as the choice of translation method in order to achieve it. Prior to this they should be aware about the text type they are translating. Background knowledge about the different approaches/ theories of translation is of paramount importance for students and researchers willing to contribute in the development of the field in their countries.

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