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Literal Translation and Its Impact on Political Terms Translation

in Television Journalism

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Article Information	Abstract
	The research tackles the potential challenged faced the translator when dealing with the literal translation of nowadays political terms in media. Despite the universal complexity of translating political jargon, adopting literal translation introduces an added layer of intricacy. The primary aim of literal translation is to maintain faithfulness to the original text, irrespective of whether it is in English or Arabic. However, this method presents several challenges within the linguistic and cultural dimensions. Drawing upon scholarly sources, this article expounds upon the multifaceted issues that emerge from the verbatim translation of political terms from English into Arabic. These problems include political culture, language differences, contextual incongruities, dialects, political abbreviations and symbols, and the complexity of terminology with dual or composite meanings. The study comes to the conclusion that a skilled translator must possess an exhaustive comprehension of political discourse to ensure accurate and contextually suitable translations while embracing versatile methodologies that uphold the authenticity of cultural subtleties. Furthermore, the evolving role of the translator is underscored in response to the dynamic Global and Linguistic landscapes and international events. and international events.

1. Introduction

Media translation requires flexible and precise specifications for translating global news content, especially when translating from English to Arabic. This translation process involves converting news articles and reports about a variety of local and international events, such as interviews, symposia, conferences, and other significant local, regional, and international events. In addition to these challenges, an experienced translator often struggles to determine the best way to handle complex issues when working on a large project. Translators sometimes translate Arabic words used in politics without adding more specific words, opting instead for a literal version or adding extra words to clarify the meaning. While this approach may lead to doubts about the translator's ability to fully understand the words, it can also hinder the accurate transmission of the complete message to individuals seeking thorough comprehension.

Just as a military commander develops his specialized abilities by concentrating on armored units or aviation squadrons, press editors build their competency on at least three years of experience in the news department. What happens, one wonders, when the interpreter decides to work as a journalist? **This study aims** to find out how translating experiences affect journalistic performance and how these translation-related abilities might help to advance and enhance journalism practices.

Research Problem: This paper aims to examine the challenges faced by media translators when dealing with political terms.

News constitutes the driving force of media practice and serves as the foundation for all other forms of media. As long as news remains at the heart of the media process, and its cornerstone, the story of news to the recipient resembles a person's relationship with their home. In order to feel comfortable, it must be formulated in a soothing manner, presented in a attention-grabbing fashion, and include facts that matter to the audience, compelling them to pursue it. This can only be achieved through coherent sentences and familiar vocabulary. Just like a house's furniture that provides stability, news sentences and their vocabulary serve as the infrastructure for its delivery". (Masri, 2010, p. 9) Hence the importance of media translation, as a contemporary approach to language mediation within media. The emergence of this particular mode of translation predates its development in the Arab world, having first evolved in Europe and other regions across the globe. The television interpretation system in Europe originated during the early 1960s, which coincided with the period of the Cold War. Following this, there were political transformations that necessitated live reporting from areas of conflict and interviews with local figures and analysts, which bestowed worldwide significance upon the television interpretation provided by networks such as CNN, BBC, and other similar broadcasting channels. Television interpretation was first introduced in certain non-English-speaking nations during the initial months of 1969, specifically to facilitate the live broadcast of the Apollo moon landing on television. The media landscape in the Arab world exhibited distinct characteristics during the period preceding the 1990s, with the establishment of satellite channels marking a significant turning

point. The commencement of space broadcasting can be traced back to Egypt during the early 1960s (Al-Asadi, 2020, p. 11)

2. Political Terms

Political language is intricately intertwined with the historical development of political thought, thereby encompassing the documentation of pertinent data and factual information pertaining to noteworthy legal and regional transformations, global political events, as well as wars and treaties.

Political language terms is closely linked to the specific language used in political philosophy. It aims to construct descriptive theories pertaining to political phenomena, such as social criticism, principles of justice, and law. Additionally, it articulates political ideas, including doctrines, ideologies, political programmes, and policy objectives. In this regard, political terms can be regarded as a supplementary form of speech associated with fundamental political discourse. According to (Sawan, 2019, p. 104)

The significance of the translator's interaction with political culture in translating political terms from English to Arabic cannot be overstated. Translation is a complex process that goes beyond mere linguistic conversion. It involves transferring the words and the underlying meaning and cultural nuances of a text. This is particularly crucial in the political domain, where language reflects specific values, concepts, and experiences that shape a distinct reality.

2.1 key outline requirements that should be considered when translating political terms

The translation of political terms necessitates adherence to certain requirements in order to ensure accuracy, clarity, and consistency. These requirements are crucial in facilitating effective communication and comprehension of political concepts across different languages and cultures. First and foremost, translators must possess a deep understanding

1. A comprehensive comprehension of political culture is imperative for the translator, as it is essential for them to possess an in-depth understanding of the political culture prevalent in both target countries. The acquisition of knowledge pertaining to government structures, political systems, laws, values, and significant political concepts is imperative.

2. Examination of political concepts: The translator must possess the capacity to conduct a comprehensive analysis of political concepts, demonstrating a profound comprehension of the diverse connotations associated with these terms in the source language and the ability to faithfully convey them in the target language.

Cultural resilience is a crucial aspect of interpretation, as it requires the translator to possess cultural flexibility. This entails the ability to maintain a delicate equilibrium between linguistic integrity and conceptual precision, while also considering the cultural and political disparities that may exist between the two languages being interpreted.

Impartiality and clarity are crucial factors to consider in the translation of political terms. It is imperative for the translator to maintain an unbiased approach, ensuring that the translation remains unaffected by personal opinions or political affiliations. The objective of this study is to present a

comprehensive and precise elucidation of the intended significance. see. (Minako O'Hagan and David Ashworth, 2002, p. 40)

Effective communication is a crucial aspect for translators, particularly when engaging with experts in the political and linguistic domains. By actively communicating with these professionals, translators can gain valuable insights that aid in clarifying and enhancing their understanding of specialised terms. Moreover, such interactions serve to mitigate the risk of bias or misunderstanding, thereby ensuring the accuracy and fidelity of the translation process.

Respect for context is a crucial aspect that translators must consider when dealing with political terms. The interpretation of a political term can vary significantly depending on the specific political context in which it is employed. In fact, the meaning of a political term can undergo a complete transformation based on the contextual factors at play. Therefore, it is imperative for translators to exercise utmost diligence in comprehending and acknowledging the prevailing political context in order to accurately interpret political terms.

The translator's connection to political culture becomes apparent when examining the translation of political terms. The successful execution of this procedure necessitates proficient language abilities and a comprehensive comprehension of culture and context in order to accomplish a precise and unambiguous transmission of political significance and purpose (Hadid, 2010, p. 233).

The present discourse aims to explore the relationship between television journalism translation and political affiliation. This investigation seeks to shed light on the potential influence of political orientation on the translation of television journalism content. By adopting a research-oriented approach, this study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the interplay between these two variables

The examination of the translator's association with political alignment in the context of translating political terms from English to Arabic is a subject of utmost sensitivity and significance. The translator ought to adopt a cautious and unbiased stance when engaging with this topic, so as to uphold the integrity and reliability of the translation. In the context of political translation, it is imperative for translators to consider the political affiliation associated with the terms being translated.

When translating political terms, it is crucial for the translator to uphold objectivity and impartiality consistently. The interpreter should aim to maintain an unbiased and objective stance to accurately convey the intended message without any personal or subjective influences. The translator upholds these principles to maintain the integrity and trustworthiness of political discussions and to guarantee fairness and neutrality in translated content. It is essential to maintain a clear distinction between personal political beliefs and professional responsibilities as an interpreter. Thus, they are able to successfully carry out their responsibility of offering readers precise and impartial information. See (SÁROSI-MÁRDIROSZ, 2014, p. 162)

Translators must ensure that their translations remain objective and free from any political bias or subjective interpretation. Translators must strive to remain objective and neutral to guarantee the precision and integrity of the translated material. Translators can maintain impartiality and fairness in their work by refraining from introducing any political bias. By adopting this approach, we ensure that terms are communicated clearly and objectively, eliminating any possibility of distortion or bias influenced by personal affiliations.

In the realm of interpretation, it is of utmost importance to maintain the true essence of political terms in the source language, without any bias or distortion from the translator's personal viewpoint.

One crucial aspect of effective interpretation is the development of a profound comprehension of the context in which political terms are employed and the consequential implications associated with them. This practise facilitates the individual in attaining precise and suitable translation outcomes.

One potential strategy for enhancing clarity and minimising bias in the realm of political discourse involves engaging in direct communication with subject matter experts. By seeking out and engaging with individuals who possess specialised knowledge and expertise in the field of politics, one can gain valuable insights that can aid in the clarification and comprehension of complex terminologies. This proactive approach serves to mitigate the potential influence of personal biases and ensures the utilisation of trustworthy dictionaries and reference materials in the realm

of political terms aids the translator in delivering precise and error-free translations (Anani, 2000, p. 7).

In order for the translator to effectively address the challenges associated with political affiliation, it is imperative that they actively strive to uphold impartiality, accuracy, and credibility in their translation endeavours. This can be achieved by developing a comprehensive understanding of the source texts from which they are translating, particularly considering the linguistic nuances and complexities that have emerged within the political discourse. By doing so, the translator can ensure that the translated texts are presented at a level that aligns with the standards observed in the realm of daily journalism.

When a translator opts for machine translation to translate political terms, they allow technology to determine the term's linguistic meaning. However, it's crucial to remember that this approach necessitates avoiding the skepticism that a given interpretation merely reflects a particular perspective on the term, not the political meaning of the term itself. It necessitates that the 'genius' of a language influences only its surface structures, not its deep structures, which are purportedly universal across all languages.

International adoption of this term's translation is only possible when there is a comparison between terms and their meanings. This allows for a clear and seamless translation, enabling a global perspective that aligns with political logic, as it reveals the structures inherent in one's native language.

The surface translation levels of the various languages do differ, but usage bias frequently corrupts these differences, leading to misunderstandings. see (Eco, 1995, p. 314)

The translator's engagement with the task of updating news and the difficulties encountered in balancing time constraints and translation accuracy while translating political terms from English to Arabic pose significant challenges that necessitate the application of advanced skills and effective strategies. The aforementioned relationship exemplifies the intricate equilibrium between the dedication to deliver swift translation services and upholding the precision and excellence of the translated content. see (SÁROSI-MÁRDIROSZ, 2014, p. 163).

2.2 The translation process is fraught with many difficulties, such as:
The Speed of Translation:

The translator is faced with a situation necessitating prompt translation of contemporary political news. The presence of time constraints can potentially have a detrimental impact on the quality of translation, posing challenges to the task of maintaining accuracy in the translated text.

The maintenance of translation accuracy and the provision of precise conceptual translation of political terms are imperative for the translator, even under time constraints. The process necessitates the verification of the accurate definition of the term and the subsequent clarification of said definition in order to more accurately convey the original intended meaning.

One important factor to consider in the interpretation of political news is the significance of the political context in which a term is employed and the subsequent impact on its translation. The appropriateness of translation is contingent upon the contextual factors that encompass the term in text.

To effectively carry out their responsibilities, translators must stay informed about political advancements and the latest updates pertaining to the terminologies they are translating. This process facilitates the revision and adaptation of translations to accurately represent recent and evolving occurrences. See((Doherty, 2016, p. 953)

One method that translators can employ to enhance and expedite the translation process is the utilisation of technical tools, such as automated translation and editing software. These tools serve to streamline the overall workflow and increase efficiency in the translation endeavour. The utilisation of such tools can prove advantageous in managing time constraints; however, it is imperative to exercise caution in excessively depending on these tools as a means to guarantee precision.

With their commercial debut in the 1990s, computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools provided the first major technological shift in the present-day translation industry, increasing the availability and affordability of computing power and the Internet.

The core of CAT tools is a translation memory (TM), a software program that stores a translator's translated text alongside its original source text so that these pairs can later be reused in full or in part when the translator is

tasked with translating texts of a similar linguistic composition. See(
(Doherty, 2016, p. 951)

The translator's ability to stay updated with news and maintain a balance between time constraints and translation accuracy poses a significant challenge. Consequently, translators must adequately prepare and employ advanced strategies to effectively address this issue. The element of time in journalism holds considerable significance in the translation of news content as a whole. In situations where timely information is of utmost importance, translators often encounter challenges due to limitations in time and space. These limitations limit their capacity to accurately correct and communicate urgent information within a limited timeframe. Consequently, these restrictions impose psychological burdens on television translators, manifesting as heightened levels of journalism. (Al-Asadi, 2020, p. 25)

The Cognitive Difficulties

The translator's understanding and incorporation of cultural and historical elements play a pivotal role in the proper and comprehensible translation of political language from English to Arabic. The relationship between political terms and culture and history is frequently intertwined. It is crucial for translators to possess a comprehensive understanding of this connection in order to deliver translations that faithfully capture the intended meaning and contextual nuances.

The translator must demonstrate a profound comprehension of cultural nuances, linguistic proficiency, and the intended objectives. It is advisable

for him to acquire knowledge regarding the cultures, traditions, and values inherent in the political and historical contexts of both countries. These characteristics have the potential to significantly influence the understanding and interpretation of various concepts and phenomena.

Prior to translating political terms, translators must conduct a crucial cultural and historical analysis. It is imperative for translators to thoroughly examine the cultural and historical context that surrounds the specific term in question. Understanding the historical development of events and concepts is crucial in facilitating a more precise and reliable process of translation.

One important aspect to consider is the appreciation of cultural differences, particularly when it comes to political terms. It is crucial to recognise that the meanings of political phrases can vary among languages and cultures. The translator must exhibit sensitivity towards these variations and include them into their translation. See (SÁROSI-MÁRDIROSZ, 2014, p. 161)

Historical influences play a crucial role in the interpretation process since translators need to possess a comprehensive awareness of how past events have shaped the understanding and terms of the target language. The perception and meanings of a phrase may be influenced by historical factors.

The translation should be suitable and comprehensible to the intended recipient without causing any disruption or confusion.

The translator must integrate linguistic and cognitive translation standards to produce a translation that maintains the precision of the political term while also embodying the values and characteristics of the target culture.

Continuous research and development are essential for translators to ensure their preparedness in understanding and acquiring knowledge on cultural and historical issues relevant to political terms. This process contributes to the enhancement of translation quality.

In conclusion, the translator must profoundly comprehend the cultural and historical factors that influence political terms. This enables him to deliver precise and comprehensible translations that accurately convey both the intended content and the contextual nuances.

3. Challenges of Literal Translation in Television journalism

The translation of political terms poses a significant challenge for translators, with literal translation introducing further intricacies. Nonetheless, the primary objective of literal translation remains the faithful representation of the original text, whether in English or Arabic. For instance, the term "subtitle" does not retain a consistent meaning across contexts (Qutub, 2008, p. 27). Numerous hurdles arise when endeavoring to translate political terms directly from English to Arabic, with the following key issues warranting consideration:

Cultural Disparities: Political terms serves as a reflection of distinct political concepts and systems intrinsic to individual languages and cultures. Verbatim translation necessitates the accurate transmission of the term's cultural and political connotations.

2. Linguistic Variances: Languages exhibit structural and regulatory differences, rendering the literal translation of political terms potentially unsuitable for the linguistic framework of the target language.

3. Divergent Usages: Political terms often hold varying applications within each language. A literal translation can engender semantic loss or inappropriateness within a given context.

4. Regional Dialects and Vernacular: Discrepancies between regional dialects and vernaculars in both languages can emerge. A literal translation may prove incongruous with the formal or cultural milieu.

5. Political Abbreviations and Symbols: Certain political terms encompass symbols and abbreviations that diverge between languages. These symbols may necessitate distinct translations or explanatory annotations.

6. Ambiguity and Complexity: Certain terms encapsulate multiple intricate meanings. A literal translation may struggle to accurately convey all of these nuances (Awad, 2008, p. 106).

In light of these considerations, the translator must possess a profound comprehension of the political discourse in order to effectuate precise translations. Employing diverse methodologies is imperative to furnish forthright and meaningful translations that remain tethered to the cultural ethos of the respective state. This underscores the translator's evolving role, obligating them to maintain alignment with global progress and international developments (Hadid, 2010, p. 233).

4. Essential Precepts Prior to Embarking on the Translation of Political Texts

1. It is advisable to peruse the entire segment or text before commencing the translation endeavor. This practice significantly facilitates the translation process. In situations where this might not be feasible, such as examinations or assessments designed to gauge the translator's speed alongside their proficiency and translation accuracy, like those conducted by Reuters Agency and BBC, for instance, at the very least, reading the paragraph prior to translation is imperative. This is to avert any errors or shortcomings in the translation process.

2. It is essential to read the paragraph before embarking on either a literal translation adhering to the original text or a translation of the meaning (paraphrased translation focusing on conveying the essence of the meaning rather than the exact wording), akin to the translation methods employed in most newspapers and Egyptian and Arabic radio and television stations.

However, the translator remains constrained by the guidelines of the media institution they are affiliated with, which at times follows a "meaning-based translation" approach when rendering English to Arabic translations. This approach may necessitate certain adjustments to ensure congruence between the phrasing and the style of the Arabic language. For example, the phrase "producing results" might be translated in the Arabic text as "التوصل أو تثمر عن" rather than adhering to a literal translation of "إنتاج," as the latter would appear inelegant.

For instance, consider the exjournalismion "The ball is in your court." If translated literally, it would read "الكرة في ملعبك." However, in English, this phrase conveys the idea that the decision or responsibility now rests with the person addressed. The literal translation strips this phrase of its positive connotation.

Essentially, the translator's task goes beyond simply converting words from one language to another. It involves skillfully transferring the intended meaning and impact, taking into account linguistic nuances and cultural context.

When translating terms such as "Revolutionary spirit" into Arabic, it is important to consider cultural and historical nuances. Neglecting these factors can result in a misleading rendition, such as "روح ثورية."

The predicament lies in the fact that in some languages, the phrase " روح ثورية" could be construed negatively, suggesting an endorsement of chaos or violence. However, "Revolutionary spirit" conveys determination and positive change in English.

Similar misunderstandings can arise from incorrect interpretation of political symbols and signals, exemplified by "Waving the white flag." The literal translation might appear as "رفع العلم الأبيض," but its intended meaning is surrender, and sometimes it's used as a symbol of a truce.

In another intricate realm, the issue of misrepresentation or bias emerges when translating certain terms such as "Peaceful protesters." The translation "المحتجون السلميون" could be accurate, but if it's manipulated to portray peaceful protesters negatively or mockingly, it could distort the

original image through the use of negatively charged words or by ridiculing their actions.

Furthermore, inaccuracies in translating political terms can also be problematic, as seen in the translation of "National security" as " الأمن الوطني." The issue lies in the fact that in some languages, "الأمن الوطني" might be narrowly understood as physical security alone, whereas in English, "National security" encompasses safeguarding the economy, politics, and comprehensive challenges.

In essence, the precision of political translation hinges on a profound understanding of the cultural, historical, and linguistic contexts, to ensure that the translated message remains faithful to the original intention, devoid of bias or misinterpretation.

Likewise, in the realm of conflict and struggle: The concept of "نزاع" (nizaa) is considered one of the key parallels to "صراع" (sira') or conflict. At first glance, translating the concept of "conflict" from both French and English into Arabic poses a formidable challenge, presenting the initial obstacle for the translator. Ibn Manzur distinguished between "نزاع" (nizaa) and "صراع" (sira') in his lexicon "Lisan al-Arab," viewing "نزاع" (nazaa) as disputation and "صراع" (sira') as contention. He perceived "صراع" (sira') and "مصارعة" (muṣāra'a) as indications of intense confrontation, wherein one endeavor to overpower the other. Various foreign encyclopedias regard "صراع" (sira') as implying "fierce argument" or "struggle against others," whereas "نزاع" (nizaa) refers to "disagreement," "contradiction," or "competition of ideas." This signifies that "نزاع" (nizaa) represents a

preliminary stage to "صراع" (sira') and might not necessarily escalate to the level of "صراع" (sira'), thus indicating that "نزاع" (nizaa) possesses less intensity and comprehensiveness than "صراع" (sira') (Abkar, 2022, p. 99).

These examples highlight how significant semantic variations can occur among different languages and cultures. The precision of selecting the appropriate meaning in the required context becomes evident, underscoring the translator's responsibility for caution and accuracy to evade these pitfalls. This is essential to ensure the accurate and proper conveyance of meaning, while avoiding cultural and linguistic complexities inherent in the translation of political terms.

Conclusion:

Translating political terms requires a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures and languages and a deep understanding of customs, traditions, and values intertwined with politics and history. This understanding can significantly impact the meanings and interpretations of political terms. An in-depth cultural and historical analysis of the surrounding context is crucial, as it helps guide more accurate translations. Cultural disparities are important, as political terms may hold distinct meanings across different languages and cultures. Translators must navigate these variations sensitively and reflect them in their translations. Historical context also plays a crucial role in shaping the perception and meanings of terms. Translations must be fitting and intelligible for the target reader without causing discomfort or confusion. Harmonizing linguistic and cultural translation standards is essential, as it ensures that

political terms remain precise while reflecting the intended culture. Continuous research and development are also essential, as it enhances the quality of translations, ensuring accuracy and cultural alignment.

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