



Translation Between Linguistic Theory and Discursive Practice

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Abstract:

In this article a case is made for the role of Arabic translation in lexical space construction and on how its multiple equivalents and lack of semantic centrality, have given a rise to 'conceptual confusion' in Arab terminology. It foregrounds lexicon in the regulation of knowledge, and as a medium through one can achieve a unity in science. Employing both a descriptive and analytical method, it investigates definition, types and translation methods, the relationship between linguistic analysis and discursive practice, as well as terminological components and characteristics. Results: Non standardization processes, different sources of Arabization and semantically instability in terminologies are some reasons that disturb terminology indicating the necessity for integration of Arabisms into a unified Arabic neological system aiming at controllability.

Keywords: Translation, linguistic terminology, Arabization, scientific discourse.

Introduction

Translation should be considered as a vehicle for carrying ideas across cultures, an effective intermediary medium through which can move the concepts and terminologies of one language into another. Unusual proliferation The field of contemporary linguistics has recently exploded with an unusual gush with new terms with very clear meanings, often expressing specialized notions in different sciences and mostly created within Western cultural and scientific contexts, especially those expressed mainly in French and English.

The Arabic language, in this respect, has had to confront a double problem: it had to faithfully translate the idea and insert that genuine transcription within an alien linguistic and cultural universe—a situation that has given rise not only to multiple translations but also to different terminological equivalents (at times, even semantic confusion and lack of concept-centrality).

The problem of rendering linguistic terminology at the present in time is a problem related both with translation and terminological description. It impacts learning, teaching and



formation of linguistic ideas in the Arabic language directly. This situation points to the necessity of a critical approach toward those changes, through the perspective of translation from Arabic.

Because terminology plays a vital role in the precise articulation of scientific ideas, and because Arabic equivalents are many as well as the methods of Arabization and translation in linguistic terminology are also many, we can raise this question: How has the translation into Arabic impacted the process of forming linguistic terminology? What types of transformations have impacted its linguistic structure?

1. The Concept of Translation

Translating text is a cultural, linguistic creation that takes the source language and changes it into the target language to keep as much of the original language's meaning, intent and culture. This results in a translated text that can be easily understood by a reader using the target language. Translating is more than just a word-for-word translation. Translating includes interpretation, rephrasing and adapting the text to the particular language and culture of the target language so that the best possible communication can occur between the two parties, as well as to promote an exchange of knowledge.

Language: Dictionaries define the entry "tarjama" (to translate) as follows: "Someone translated his speech when he clarified and explained it, and translated the speech of others if he expressed it in a language different from the speaker's language. The active participle is 'tarjuman', the verb form is 'tarjam-fa'alal', and a refined tongue is called 'lisan murjam', which pluralizes as 'tarajim' or 'tarajimuhu.'" It is also said: "I translated the matter for him," (Al-Fayoumi 1996, 43) meaning I clarified it. Therefore, clarity is considered one of the essential conditions for good translation (Al-Didawi 2000, 71).

It is well known that translation carries the following meanings (Jabbour 1984, 4):

- **Clarification and making things clear** (Making clear)
- **Interpretation** (Interpretation, explanation)
- **Human life and biography** (Biography, Memoir)
- **Conveying from one language to another** (Translation)

The last meaning, translation from one language to another, is the focus of this study. From this meaning, the words "**tarjuman**" (interpreter) and "**mutarjim**" (translator), who performs the act of translation, are derived.

From the previous definitions, it becomes clear that the concept of translation carries multiple meanings, the most prominent of which are: clarification, elucidation, and interpretation, followed by the transfer of a text or discourse from one language to another. Additionally, it can also refer to presenting a person's biography or self-translation.

Technically, translation is the expression of the meaning of speech in one language using words in another language, while fully preserving all its meanings and intentions.

Based on the previous definitions, it becomes clear that the concept of translation carries multiple meanings, the most prominent of which are clarification, elucidation, and interpretation, followed by the transfer of a text or discourse from one language to another, in addition to another meaning related to presenting a biography or a person's self-translation.



Technically (or terminologically), translation is the expression of the meaning of speech in one language using speech in another language, while preserving all its meanings and intentions (Al-Zerqani, 11-12).

Some have defined it as the transfer of speech from one language to another by progressing from individual words to complete sentences and overall meanings (al-Durubi, 19).

It is also defined by Abdul Alim Al-Sayed Al-Mansi and Abdullah Abdul Razzaq as the transfer of ideas and statements from one language to another, while preserving the spirit of the original text (Na'mani 2006, 186).

The authors of the book *Dictionnaire de didactique des langues*, Galisson and Cost, define the term Traduction as "the act of representing one series of linguistic signs through another series of linguistic signs." (Galisson and Coste 1976, 612)

This means that when you are translating from the source language to the translated or target language, you must first convert the written words into your own language or way of expressing it. Then, you must determine the meaning of what you have translated. Finally, you will rephrase in your own words so that it will be understood within the translated or target language. As such, interpreting a written manuscript is the sole focus of translation.

In other words, translation is more than simply being able to find words that match between both languages; it is also about understanding the author's context, culture, and intent in writing. It is through this understanding that the translator is able to create new texts that maintain the author's spirit or intentions while being presented in an acceptable manner within the target language.

Translation should therefore be seen as a creative undertaking requiring the translator to possess proficiency levels that allow them to fluently speak both languages as well as be culturally sensitive and able to bridge the meanings with forms.

2. Types of Translation:

Translation as a form of language is classified as either Interpretative or Oral.

2.1 Interpretative Translation: is generally known as the oldest and most commonly utilised form of written translation. It has also been used extensively throughout history for both public and private purposes. While it has been established as one of the earliest forms of written communication, there have been many updates and developments since then. An example of interpretative translation as a way of public speaking is simultaneous interpreting. In this case, interpreters have the ability to translate the speaker's message as it's being spoken, essentially reading the message off the paper and translating it to an audience in real time (El-Jilali 2004).

2.2 Written Translation: This type of translation is considered the most important, as it is entrusted with many of society's critical tasks, such as charters, laws, journalism, scientific, intellectual, and literary books, historical texts, letters, computer programs, and more. Written translation is essential for conveying legal texts and computer software accurately.

2.3 Machine Translation (Computerized Translation): This is electronic translation governed by automated programming, which relies on storing bilingual or multilingual dictionary entries in computers designed for this purpose. Machine translation has rapidly advanced thanks to artificial intelligence, leading to computer programs capable of providing nearly perfect real-



time translation.

3. Translation Methods:

There are several methods of translation, among which we find:

Literal Translation: When translating literally, the source text is translated into the target language word-for-word, without applying the grammatical rules of the target language and without regard to its intended meaning. This translation method usually introduces linguistic confusion and distortions of the intended meaning, resulting in a loss of accuracy in the translation and a deviation from what the author originally intended.

Free translating is an approach that emphasizes the central idea of the text, but uses the conventions of the TL (target language) instead of adhering closely to all of the main points or specific words in the ST (source text). As a result, a free translation can add or elaborate on some of the elements in the original ST. However (El-Jilali 2004, 35), since this type of translation does not follow the specific order of the elements in the original ST (source) it can also lead to a change in the overall meaning or removal of some of the subtle meanings contained within the original. Rather than focusing primarily on the overall content of a text or its aesthetic qualities, the primary objective of a free translational approach is to communicate an idea.

Translation of the semantic aspect means preserving the semantic (meaning) aspects of a text, not its grammatical (form) aspects. The translation conveys the message as closely as possible but does not use the original's grammatical structure or style (Mansour 2006).

Translation of Adaptation (or Equivalent Translation) reproduces both semantic aspects and also grammatical structure when used in the target language. The Importance of Equivalent Translation lies in its ability to reproduce the same meaning in the translated text. The adapted translation method also facilitates full transfer of the source text's semantic aspect to the target language and, as a result, functional/stylistic match of the source text's patterns, structures and formulations with the target language's patterns, structure and formulation. Consequently, this makes Adaptation the most preferable type of translation since it preserves the style of the text as if it were written in the target language originally (Mansour 2006, 36).

According to Sunil Hornby, translation is the process of rendering some spoken or written material into another language. In other words, translation is the text or work that has been converted from one language to another.

In terms of form, translation aims to preserve the expressive structure and linguistic style in which the original text was composed, considering that the form of a text is part of its meaning. A skilled translator is one who balances content and form, making the text natural in the target language without losing its original stylistic character (Snell-Hornby 2006, 90).

4. Translation as a Discursive Practice:

According to Aristotle, Discourse and Rhetoric are two concepts that are comparable; Rhetoric being "a type of persuasive speech." (Jamil 1994., 531) Discourse, as explained by Al-Amidi, "refers to utterances that have been created with the aim of conveying meaning to someone capable of understanding it." Discourse can thus be seen as a way of communicating



and conveying ideas with the intention of influencing others' thoughts. (Al-Amidi 1980, 136)

The type of Discourse to be translated will dictate the specific approach used, as follows: Literary Discourses try to maintain both the aesthetic and stylistic qualities of an original work; whilst Scientific Discourses must communicate the meaning of highly technical terms with as much Precision and Clarity as possible; Media Discourses must communicate Information quickly, in as much Simplicity and Clarity as possible. As a result, the method a Translator chooses to use to translate a Text should depend on the nature of the Text being Translated.

5. The Relationship Between Linguistic Theory and Discursive Practice in Translation:

Understanding the meaning and intent of the original text is an essential part of the translation process. The content of the source material will influence how the translator interprets and translates this source material.

When selecting words to translate from one language into another, a translator needs to know what words mean and how to create a sentence with those words. There are many different types of dictionaries; some will have synonyms for each word to be translated; others will give definitions or other information about those words.

A good translation will not take the reader beyond their current proficiency level in both the source and the target language. Experts agree that when a translator takes the best possible approach to find the right words to express an idea, they also create an equivalent relationship between the meanings of the source and the translated text.

The translator creates a balance between being true to what is stated in the original text, and to create clarity in the translated text, through the process of determining how to transfer meaning from one language to another, based on linguistic analysis of the text. This balance is created by the interaction between the linguistic understanding and the practical uses of linguistic knowledge for translations into another language.

6. The Concept of a Term and Its Components:

A. Linguistic Aspect: The term *muṣṭalaḥ*, derived from the verb *iṣṭalaḥ*, originates from the root *ṣ-l-ḥ*. It is said: "ṣalāḥ (righteousness) is the opposite of ṭalāḥ (corruption), and a righteous man in himself is *muṣṭalaḥ* in his actions and affairs," meaning "he adheres to righteousness." (Al-Farahidi) In *Lisān al-‘Arab*, *ṣulḥ* is defined as reconciliation among people, peace, or making amends, expressed in forms such as *ṣāliḥū*, *aṣṭalaḥū*, *taṣālahū*, and *iṣṭalaḥū*. Al-Jawharī defines it in *Al-Ṣiḥāḥ* as "reform, the opposite of corruption." (al-Qutiyya 2003; Ibn al-Qutiyya 2003)

In *Tāj al-‘Arūs* by al-Zubaydī, it is stated: "Wa-*iṣṭalaḥā* and *iṣṭalaḥa* (with a doubled ṣād) – they replaced the tā’ with a ṣād and merged it into the ṣād; and *taṣālahā* and *iṣṭalaḥā* with a tā’ instead of tā’ – all carry the same meaning." Thus, the term inherently conveys the notions of reconciliation and agreement.

The Western world was among the first to take interest in this relatively modern field of knowledge. However, terminology as a structured discipline did not take its current form until the early twentieth century. The Austrian scholar Eugen Wüster (1898–1977) is credited with



laying the foundations for general terminology theory and its development. Subsequently, terminology science (*Terminology Science*) emerged as a new field, leading to the establishment of specialized institutes and organizations dedicated to it.

Terms refer to the science of studying the link between scientific concepts and the words used to describe those concepts linguistically (i.e. through natural language). A term is an interdisciplinary area of study that overlaps with linguistics, logic, informatics and many other areas of research and thus can be considered a multi-faceted field. In a formal and lexical sense, a term can be defined as being similar to a word in terms of its morphological structure (i.e. the construction of the term), grammatical structure (i.e. the grammatical nature of a term), and in some cases even syntactic structure (i.e. how a term is grammatically related to other terms or words). (Al-Qasimi 1987, 17)

Since terms are a form of collective agreement among a group of people, they represent the manner in which a particular group collectively agrees upon how to represent a particular concept, by way of a specific way of naming it. In other words, terms can be viewed as a specific form of consensus among a particular group of people regarding a concept. This makes terms critical to developing standardized definitions for concepts in different disciplines so that researchers across disciplines have a uniform understanding of the same concept; furthermore, the creation of standardized definitions for different concepts creates uniformity in scientific communication.

Through the process of creating standardized definitions for different concepts through the use of terminology, researchers create a foundation for building a more comprehensive and precise scientific language.

A concept is a unit of thought formed by abstraction from the shared characteristics of a set of subjects. A term is a linguistic unit that refers to a specific concept within the language of a particular discipline; it can be a single word or a combination of words, such as *Sawsan* or *Sawsan Madhhab*, respectively. (Al-Arabi Ould Khalifa, 562)

In linguistic sciences, the relationship between concept and term is close: a term is a word that expresses a scientific concept, while the concept represents the mental meaning that gives the term its precise significance within the linguistic field.

7.Characteristics of a Scientific Term:

The characteristics of scientific terms include: 1) a univocal definition (a scientific term can only have one specific meaning - Wüster's traditional view advocated by the Austrian-German school of thought), 2) an agreement between people to define a scientific term, 3) a standard definition of a scientific term that gives a clear direction on how it should be used and enables the exchange of knowledge between researchers without any ambiguity, and 4) a non-suggestive nature (the term contains only what is intended) - it does not convey multiple or alternative meanings.

This method allows for a definitive translation of linguistic terms from English into French and vice versa.

Term (Français)	English
Philosophie du pragmatisme	Pragmatism
Plurilinguisme	Polyglossic
Sémantique	Semantics
Sémiologie	Semiology
Théorie des signes	Semiotics

Français	English
Décomposition	Decomposition
Signifiant	Signifier
Signifié	Signified
Identification	Identification
Signifiante	Significance

Français	English
Angine de poitrine	Angina pectoris
Angine de poitrine : Syndrome caractérisé par des douleurs aiguës de la poitrine, dues à une insuffisance coronaire, et pouvant évoluer vers l'infarctus.	Angina pectoris: A syndrome characterized by sharp chest pains caused by coronary insufficiency, which may progress to a myocardial infarction.
Asthme	Asthma
Asthme : Syndrome respiratoire caractérisé par des crises de dyspnée paroxystique (essoufflement), accompagnées de troubles de la circulation et de la sécrétion des muqueuses des voies aériennes.	Asthma: A respiratory syndrome characterized by paroxysmal dyspnea (shortness of breath), accompanied by disturbances in circulation and secretion of the airway mucous membranes.

We can say that a linguistic term is translated by a single corresponding word in the target language, meaning it requires a one-to-one equivalent in the second language, whereas translation involves rendering the entire text to convey its full meaning.

Linguistic translation is not merely a language activity; it is an exchange process that combines conceptual study and textual comprehension, making the translator a scientific intermediary who facilitates the transfer of knowledge between peoples.

Conclusion

Translation is one of the most important ways to share knowledge internationally. When a person translates something from one language to another, they are transferring the meaning,



as well as any associated concepts and terminology, of the original source. As new technology continues to develop, many new terms have been introduced within modern linguistics, most of which originated in France and/or England. The Arabic language has faced the unique challenge of translating these new terms accurately while adapting them to fit such a diverse culture as that of the Arabic-speaking world. As a result, translation into Arabic can sometimes result in multiple translations for the same word or phrase, which can create challenges for the translators in terms of maintaining the original meaning of the term or phrase when there are multiple translations available. The art of translation transcends simply translating words and phrases; rather, it encompasses interpreting, restating, and adapting concepts to fit within the cultural framework of the intended audience of the translated material. Furthermore, translation may take place in a variety of mediums including oral, written, or computer-assisted; each medium of translation has its own unique application and benefits.

There are four methods that may be used for translation: literal translation; free translation; semantic translation; and equivalent translation. Each of these methods has advantages and disadvantages depending upon the type of text and its purpose. Translation is a discursive process, which means that the work will be adapted to the literary style, or to the style of scientific or media publications according to their needs. Therefore, to obtain a faithful rendering of the source text into target language(s), one should read thoroughly the entire source text, use specialized dictionaries when needed, and conduct a thorough linguistic analysis prior to anything else. Each linguistic term represents a defined concept within the context of a specialized vernacular, and often indicates an abstract concept related to that category. The defining characteristics of scientific terminology include univocity, an ability to communicate universally, an agreement among the experts in the field, and precision of meaning. As with all other types of linguistic terminology, a translation of a particular subject area in the two target languages will utilize examples such as Pragmatism / Philosophie du pragmatisme and Semantics / Sémantique. Ultimately, translation is not simply transferring a language; rather, it is an intellectual interaction or interchange that fosters knowledge transfer and understanding between different cultures.

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