Sabha University

Department of English

Translation mistakes committed by translators when translating Arabic short stories into English

An investigation conducted on the Arabic short story of "the tale of the lamp" "Hekayat Al Gundeel" by the Arab author "Izz al-Din al-Madani and translated in to English by "Ronak Husni and Daniel L. Newman"

BY

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First of all, we thank God who helped us reach this level and then to the personalities who took our hands and helped us (research supervisor Dr. Arabi, our dear mothers and fathers, and to this who stood beside us throughout our educational journey Sana Al-Zaroug)
DEDICATION

To a man who seeded a seedling but was deprived by fate to see its fruit to the soul of my beloved father who supported and motivated me to pursue my undergraduate study.

I dedicate this work to my dear mother, father and husband.


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Chapter one Introduction

Introduction

Interest and demand have significantly increased in the field of translation throughout the years, as translation is considered one medium of communication and exchange of ideas which can occur between various cultures worldwide (Kroulek, 2016).

Due to some losses occur in the translation of an Arabic short story of "The Tale of the Lamp", this research examines the translation mistakes occurred when translating this short story from Arabic language into English language.

Through this study, the researchers try to find out the main reasons that cause such mistakes. This will help translators avoid being in mistakes and represents good guidance for better ideal translation.

It is obvious that English language and Arabic Language are completely different in certain structures and aspects. The variations between cultures could also cause another source of difficulties. The current study tend to shed light on the major problematic reasons which cause a translator commit inconsiderable errors while translating from Arabic into English.

1.1 Research problem

It becomes clear, that some masterpieces of literature loses its apatite when it is transferred into another language. The translators of this selected work could convey the meaning and present an accepted Literal translation but they were unable to
express feelings emotions and reactions of the characters of the story which leads to corrupt the plot of this story.

Accordingly, this study investigates the reasons beyond translation mistakes leads to present inadequate translations.

1.2 Aims of research
This research aims at finding out the mistakes committed by translators in translating short stories. Moreover, it aims to find out some strategies that may help Libyan translators in translating short stories.

1.3 Research Questions
As it is mentioned above that it becomes clear that some translators present inadequate translations. In this concern, this study tries to answer the following research questions:

1- What are the main problems that some translators face in translating short stories?

2- What are the reasons behind committing some translation mistakes?

1.4 Hypothesis of the research
The researchers hypothesize that the main problems may face translators in transferring the source text into the target language are:

1- Translators are unable to translate some texts due to their ignorance of the target culture.

2- Some translators make mistakes due to the fact that they use literally translation method when they translate.
1.5 Research outline

This project consists of five chapters. The first chapter is an introduction that gives a general ideas about the research. It introduces, research problem, aims, research questions and hypothesis. Chapter two is the literature review in which previous studies are reviewing to find out clear gap in the literature and to review the limitations of previous studies that can be avoided in designing the current study. The third chapter contains methodology which contains the introduction of the study in this chapter. The research is designed to identify the mistakes made by the translators in the translation of the short story, followed by a paragraph gathering evidence of materials and contains an explanatory explanation of how to identify mistakes in the material studied. Which researchers will follow to identify errors and deficiencies in translation. Chapter four analysis contains the introduction and an explanation of the steps that will be followed by the researcher to analyze and then analyze the material will be analyzed data collected for this study in this chapter. Chapter five contains findings and conclusion in which the research summary is fully written.
2 Chapter two literature review

2.1 Introduction:

This research is set to investigate the problems facing some translators in translating Arabic short stories into English. In the introduction to this chapter we will present some definitions of short stories of more than one researcher which were similar in terms of (the short story is part of the novel or novella) and be less than the novel in the number of characters. The second part of this chapter is to clarify some of the previous studies on this subject for researchers and each of them had his own opinion, and we will compare the views and methodology that have been followed by researchers, and we will clarify our own point of view on this subject, and in the last part of this chapter we will give a summary of the overall research...

2.2 Terminology

2.2.1 The notion of the short story

Short story is an invented prose narrative shorter than a novel usually dealing with a few characters and aiming at unity of effect and often concentrating on the creation of mood rather than plot by (Merriam-Webster 1828).

Short story is a piece of brief literature, usually written in narrative prose. Short stories can be written in a variety of formats, but the most typical features a small cast of characters with names and focuses on a single, self-contained incident. Short
stories make use of a plot and other normal literary components, just to a lesser and shorter degree than a novel. They also vary in length, June 9, 2014 by Effy J. Roan.

Entisar Ahnish (2000-2001) defined short story as a form of faction writing. We often tell our daily lives. The short story is related to the novel. Both deal with events in the lives of real or imaginary persons.

Short story according to Arlen J. Hansen Feb 6, 2019, is a brief fictional prose narrative that is shorter than a novel and that usually deals with only a few characters.

2.2.2. literary translation

Literary translation is a type of translation where the source documents are fiction. Specialists in literary translation, working for polyglot, translate any kind of artistic works at a high level. Translation of literary texts includes:

1- literary translation of books, articles, stories and other types of prose,

2-literary translation of poetry,

3- translation of advertising materials,

4-translation of other texts that requires a creative and flexible approach.

When the source and target languages belong to different cultural groups, the first problem faced by prose translator is to find terms in his or her language expressing the highest possible level of the fidelity to the meaning of certain words. He may also find it difficult to translate the ambiguity. Similarly, the titles of stories and novels
2.3. Reviewing previous studies:

Mohammed Al-Marazeeq (February 2018) His research was entitled: Some of the linguistic losses in translating the short story *A glance* by Youssef Idris.

The most prominent of his research is that the difficulties faced by the translator in translating the short story is a mistake in conveying the meaning, which harms not to transfer the same effect to the reader of the target language, causing the loss of grammar and culture. In this type of research, the qualitative research methodology is to be followed besides using the written texts of the story original text and translated text.

The results were derived by analyzing both texts by comparing them to determine the grammatical and cultural losses of both texts.

Mihrije Maloku-Morina May 2013 Translation issues in his study, he discussed some of the translation issues faced by translators when translating literary prose, including novels and short stories, and put some principles that the translator is obliged to follow as solutions to avoid the mistakes of translation:

1. A great understanding of the language, written and oral, from which any source language is translated

2. Excellent control over the language to which it is translated, i.e. the target language

3. Awareness of the subject of the translated book
4. Deep knowledge of the linguistic and idiomatic associations between the two languages

5. Sensitive sense of date of borrowing or literal translation and time of redrafting in order to ensure accurate equations instead of counterfeit between the source language and the target language Texts

2.4 Summary:

Literature demonstrates that translation is generally a very complex process requiring at least two linguistic systems to master. The translator must ensure that they are very accurate when translating from one language to another, in order to convey and maintain the correct meanings of the original text.

Based on the literature, the researchers will avoid some of the limits of previous research such as: the lack of research Maharani Maloka, who did not write the method used to derive the results of his research.

But on the contrary, the researcher Mohammed Almrazeeq was a comprehensive research and integrated and content compatible with the title of his research and explained the methodology used to derive its results.
Chapter three methodology

3.1 Introduction:

This dissertation aims to evaluate short stories translations from Arabic to English to find out the obstacles and some reasons of committing mistakes while translating from Arabic short stories to English. Thus, the story selected as a subject in this investigation is an Arabic short story titled "The Tale of the Lamp" حكاية الفندل by Izz al-Din al-madani, and which was translated into English by Ronak Husni and Daniel L. Newman. This chapter focuses on the research design, procedures for data collection and analysis, and justifying sample technique to be used in this study.

3.2 Research Design:

The current study is an exploratory, due to the fact that it is concerned with investigating what is happening, and seeking new insights and providing a better understanding of a particular problem. In addition to that this study is explanatory, because it is concerned with establishing relationships between variables. This study has been designed to find out mistakes committed by translators in translating short stories from Arabic to English. The outcome of this study is based on reviewing, analyzing and evaluating a sample of the selected Arabic short story of "The Tale of the Lamp" حكاية الفندل by Izz al-Din Al-madani, and which was translated by Ronak Husni and Daniel L. Newman. The identified mistakes will be correlated to translation theories and to the literature in order to brighten the rout and help translators find out some strategies to present better literary translation.
Aim

Research Questions

Research methods

Qualitatively

Researching secondary data

Texts Analysis

Outcome of the analysis

Main finding, recommendation and conclusion
3.3 Materials Data collection:

One Arabic story was selected as a subject for this study which has been translated by two translators into English. The researchers will study the story and identify errors in translation, whether they are related to grammatical, cultural or linguistic errors, by comparing the original texts (Arabic) and the translated one (English).

3.4 Data analysis:

In this dissertation the researcher will rely on descriptive approach to data analysis. They will analyze: the syntax of the sentence in both languages, showing linguistics mistakes and cultural loss.

Additionally, the researchers will base in their analysis on the comparative method for data analysis which is considered the only way to assess deficiencies in the translation (Newmark, 1991.163).
4 Chapter Four Data Analysis

4.1 Introduction

The data collected for this study is to be analyzed in this chapter. Having investigated the story, all the weakness points determined are obviously correlated to linguistic and cultural loss. This chapter analyze some mistakes.

4.2 The analysis

All the translation mistakes throughout this project are shown on table (4.1.). This table is established in order to give an enclosed comparison between the statements taken from the source story and their equivalence translated into English.

4.1 Translation mistakes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source: Arabic Text</th>
<th>Target: English Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>اشتهيت الازاد وأنا في بغداد 1</td>
<td>I found myself in Baghdad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>بل زعموا والله اعلم          2</td>
<td>They claimed and God knows it was true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>رجل من أعتقل الرجال          3</td>
<td>extremely clever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>لابد من ذلك ولو بالسرقة والسلب والقتل 4</td>
<td>stealing or killing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>صديق لم يشاهدته منذ زمان 5</td>
<td>he had not seen in a long time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>إنها قنديل                 6</td>
<td>This is the lamp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>فائق السultan على ضيافه 7</td>
<td>the sultan then kissed his guest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>والله لقد تنهدت وقت كتابة العقد 8</td>
<td>it is time to draw up the marriage contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>عبير السودان               9</td>
<td>amber from the Sudan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1- Some mistakes have been committed in translating the sentence 

"اشتهيت الازاد و أنا ببغداد عفواً" 

/Ishthaaito Alazad wa ana be bagdad/which means in English 

"I was yearning for Azad when I was in Baghdad. 

. the translators have translated it to "I found myself in Baghdad yearning for the azad date ". It seems that the translators have used explanatory translation method. That they added the word DATE to explain the meaning of AZAD which means a type of dates planted in Iraq. Thus, The translators use the word "found" which does not exist in the original text that gives the intention as if the writer has suddenly found himself in Baghdad. This linguistic manipulation in fact may lead to different meaning and cause the reader misunderstand the main text. Another crucial issue is that the translators has ignored an important word which reflect Arabic culture. In the Arabic behavioral cultural it is common to use polite words when changing the topic suddenly. In the Arabic text the writer used the word/عفواً/?fwan/ which literally means SORRY, but it seems to mean in the text "by the way". The writer has used the word in the text to indicating that the narrator wanted to change the topic, but when the translators ignored this word they corrupted the plot of the story.

2-The second mistake occurred in translating of the Arabic expression

"بل زعموا والله اعلم" /Bal za?mo wa Allah a?lam /, which means in English 

"God knows that they claimed" The translators have translated the sentence into "they claim and God knows. The translators have used the same method as in the previous phrase, i.e. they used explanatory translation method. They added the word IT WAS TRUE to add extra meaning to GOD KNOWS. The added words (IT WAS TRUE) do not serve the translation. Accordingly, it would be better that the translators have not add it to the target text."
3- The third mistake existed in translating the Arabic expression "رجل من اعتقل الرجال" which has been translated to "he was extremely clever". The use of the phrase "extremely clever" does not exactly express what the author means in his story by describing a man as "matured and wise". So from a linguistic perspective, wise does not mean to be intelligent or clever.

4- The forth translation mistake committed in the Arabic text which states "لابد من ذلك" which means "this must be done even by hijacking, stealing and killing". In this part of the story the misuse of the conjunction in the source text "and" where it is translated into "or" in the target text. This misuse gives different meaning to the reader that the speaker in the story tends to do three things simultaneously "hijacking AND stealing AND killing", but the translation indicates that the speaker would do one of the three alternatives either "hijacking OR stealing OR killing".

5- The loss of translation, number five, in this story is transferring the Arabic statement "صديقنا لم يشاهده منذ زمن" which appears in the English text as "he had not seen in a long time". The use of preposition in for time is used fixed with a point not period and it is used to express a past event. The translator seen to commit another grammatical mistake by using in a long time instead of for a long time.

6- Mistake number six represented in "This is the lamp" a linguistic loss, when the translators used the definite article to introduce the gift to the people by the sultan. Whereas in the original text the author says "انها قنديل".

7- In the seventh mistake, the translators miss use the equivalent meaning of the source text when the author says "فائفه السلطان على ضيفه" the translators used "the
sultan then kissed his guest”. The correct meaning of the Arabic word “اقبأ” “aqbala” is to move to words, where as the translators have translated it in to kissed.

8-In the eighth loss, the translators have translated the judge statement in the source text “َالله نقد جىٍدت َقث كحابة انعقد”, to ”it is time to draw up the marriage contract”. the sultan then kissed his guest” The meaning of the original statement does not match the English sentence that the judge realizes his sorrow about the marriage of the sultan's daughter to the traveler,where as the translators refer to the time of writing the contract.

9-The translators misuse the English structure of definite article "the" when they use it with the proper noun of Sudan which is a country. the source text says “و عنبير السودان” that was translated in to "amber from the Sudan”. This mistake shows a linguistic loss.
5. Chapter Five Findings and Conclusion

5.1. Introduction

Cultural differences between the source and target languages in terms as well as linguistics and structure differences can always lead to inconsiderable mistakes when translating from one language to another. Accordingly to this fact, we have aimed to find the faults in the translation of the Arabic story "The tale of the Lamb" in to English language and try to relate those mistakes into type.

5.1 The findings

Some of the mistakes occurred when translating this story are related to cultural perspectives. It seems that the translators are not are of the Arab culture that in their translation they have emphasized the meaning of the words without paying close attention that certain expressions are said in a particular situation. According to that situation the phrase or expression is interpreted. Moreover, Most of the mistakes in translating this story are classified as linguistic mistakes. They are either misuse of vocabulary or word misplacement which intern will give different meaning from the original text.

Therefore, the comparative strategy of data analysis helps and enable the researchers in this paper to find and classify all the translation loss occurred in this translated story.
5.3 Recommendation

Based on this issues investigated and the findings resulted in this story, the researchers recommended the following points to be taken into consideration by translations.

1- It is recommended that a translated should consider the cultural differences while.

2- Translators should be more careful dealing with some linguistics similarities, specially translation of prepositions and articles.

3- Finally, it would be more helpful and beneficent for students of translation to be taught the language parallel with its culture to avoid cultural losses in translation.

5.2. Conclusion

In conclusion, translating literature and short stories will always end with a lot of mistakes unless translators put into their consideration the differences in culture and in some linguistics aspect between the source and the target languages. To sum up, it becomes clear, that translators should aim at conveying the meaning and expressing the feelings and reactions of the characters of the source story. This will lead them to avoid misleading the readers to infer the real meaning of a particular expression.
References


**Literary translations**. [www.polyglot.lv › industries › literary-translation](http://www.polyglot.lv › industries › literary-translation)
