

ABSTRACT

In the international arena, it is a known fact that inaccurately translated political texts can lead to misunderstandings between political leaders and this can strain the relationship between countries or even lead to catastrophic ends. In the world of translation, the translation of political texts from English to Arabic is still not efficient and needs to be improved. Based on this initial finding, the researcher was motivated to investigate the translation of political texts from English to Arabic.

The objectives of this study were to (i) investigate the process of translating political texts from English to Arabic which include the strategies and the steps involved in the translation process and, (ii) to identify the problems (such as translation tools, reference materials, organizations, structure of English and Arabic languages, nature of political texts, lack of training and personal development) faced by translators of political texts from English to Arabic in order to understand the real scenario of this kind of translation.

A triangulation methodology involving Think-Aloud Protocols (TAPs), interviews and a questionnaire was used. To investigate the internal translation process, five participants took part in the TAPs and another five participants were interviewed. To identify the problems, a survey was carried out using a questionnaire. The questionnaire was administered to 33 participants who are involved in translating political texts from English to Arabic. The analysis of the TAPs was done based on Lorsch's Model of Discourse Analysis (1991).

The theoretical framework for this study comprised the translation strategies put forward by Vinay and Darbelnet (1958), the eight translation strategies by Newmark (1988) and a number of translation models depicting the translation process for example by Bell (1991) and Darwish (2003).

The TAPs analysis showed that all the translation strategies put forth by Vinay and Darbelnet (i.e. direct borrowing, literal translation, transposition, modulation, equivalence and adaptation) were used by the respondents except for calque which is a special kind of borrowing. Calque was avoided by the respondents as this strategy had a high tendency of causing difficulties in comprehension in the TL. The highest frequency for the strategy used was equivalence (34%) followed by borrowing (26%). Apart from this, the findings also revealed that the respondents used all of Newmark's (1988) eight translation strategies (semantic, communicative, functional, literal, neutralization, free, word-for-word and cultural transferring strategy) in the translation process. The highest frequency of use was for functional transfers (87.5%) followed by semantic (62.5%) and communicative transfers (62.5%). The least used strategy was cultural transfer (12.5%).

Their translation process also on the whole confirmed that similar steps were taken in translating political texts from English to Arabic as depicted in the translation models by Bell (1991), Darwish (2003) and others. The steps include planning and organizing the translation task, reading, analyzing and comprehending the information in SL text, attending to the text sentence by sentence, translating, checking and revising and evaluating the accuracy of the finished product against the original. The findings from the interview further validated the results of the TAPs analysis.

Finally, the findings from the 33 translators' responses to the questionnaire also revealed that the problems they face during the translation of political texts from English to Arabic rank as follows: passive forms (78%), the variation of tenses for time reference (65%), free speech and expression (63%), terminology (54%), pronunciation and spelling (51%), acronyms (45%), style and concord (35%) and abstractness (28%).

ABSTRAK

Di arena antarabangsa, sememangnya diketahui bahawa teks politik yang tidak diterjemahkan dengan tepat boleh membawa kepada salah faham antara pemimpin-pemimpin politik. Ini boleh membawa kepada ketegangan dalam hubungan antara negara-negara atausatu akibat yang merbahaya. Dalam dunia terjemahan, terjemahan teks politik dari Bahasa Inggeris ke Bahasa Arab masih tidak cekap dan perlu dipertingkatkan. Berdasarkan penemuan awal ini, penyelidik telah terdorong untuk menyiasat terjemahan teks politik dari Bahasa Inggeris ke Bahasa Arab.

Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk (i) menyiasat proses penterjemahan teks politik dari Bahasa Inggeris ke Bahasa Arab – ini melibatkan strategi yang digunakan dan langkah-langkah yang diambil dalam proses penterjemahan tersebut dan, (ii) untuk mengenal pasti masalah (seperti alat terjemahan, bahan rujukan, organisasi, struktur Bahasa Inggeris dan Arab, sifat teks politik, kekurangan latihan dan pembangunan peribadi) yang dihadapi oleh penterjemah teks politik dari Bahasa Inggeris ke Bahasa Arab untuk memahami senario sebenar jenis terjemahan ini.

Satu metodologi triangulasi yang melibatkan Think Aloud Protocol (TAPs), temu bual dan soal selidik telah digunakan. Untuk menyiasat proses penterjemahan dalaman, lima peserta telah mengambil bahagian dalam TAPs dan lima peserta telah ditemuramah. Untuk mengenal pasti masalah, satu kaji selidik telah dijalankan dengan menggunakan kaedah soal selidik. Soal selidik telah diberi kepada 33 peserta yang terlibat dalam penterjemahan teks politik dari Bahasa Inggeris ke Bahasa Arab. Analisis TAPs telah dilakukan berdasarkan Model Analisis Wacana Lorsch (1991).

Kerangka teori bagi kajian ini terdiri daripada strategi terjemahan yang dikemukakan oleh Vinay dan Darbelnet (1958), lapan jenis strategi terjemahan oleh

Newmark (1988) dan beberapa model penterjemahan yang menggambarkan proses penterjemahan contohnya oleh Bell (1991) dan Darwish (2003).

Analisis TAPs menunjukkan bahawa semua strategi yang dikemukakan oleh Vinay dan Darbelnet (iaitu pinjaman langsung, terjemahan literal, transposisi, modulasi, kesetaraan dan penyesuaian,) telah digunakan oleh responden kecuali *calque* yang merupakan jenis pinjaman khas. *Calque* telah dielakkan oleh responden sebagai strategi kerana ia mempunyai kecenderungan yang tinggi untuk menyebabkan kesukaran dalam kefahaman dalam TL. Kekekapan tertinggi bagi strategi yang digunakan adalah kesetaraan (34%) diikuti oleh pinjaman (26%). Selain daripada ini, kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa responden telah menggunakan kesemua (1988) lapan strategi terjemahan Newmark (semantik, komunikatif, fungsian, literal, peneutralan, bebas, kata-demi-kata dan strategi pemindahan budaya) dalam proses penterjemahan. Kekekapan yang paling tinggi adalah untuk strategi fungsian (87.5%) diikuti oleh strategi pemindahan semantik (62.5%) dan komunikatif (62.5%). Strategi yang paling kurang digunakan ialah pemindahan budaya (12.5%).

Proses penterjemahan mereka juga pada keseluruhannya mengesahkan bahawa langkah-langkah yang sama telah diambil dalam penterjemahan teks politik dari Bahasa Inggeris ke Bahasa Arab seperti yang digambarkan dalam model terjemahan oleh Bell (1991), Darwish (2003) dan lain-lain. Langkah-langkah tersebut terdiri daripada merancang dan mengatur tugas terjemahan, membaca, menganalisis dan memahami maklumat dalam teks SL, menumpu perhatian kepada ayat demi ayat, menterjemah, menyemak dan memperbaiki, menilai ketepatan produk yang sudah siap dan membandingnya dengan teks asal. Hasil kajian daripada temuduga mengesahkan keputusan analisis TAPs.

Akhir sekali, maklumbalas yang diberi oleh 33 penterjemah dalam soal selidik menunjukkan bahawa masalah yang dihadapi semasa menterjemah teks politik dari Bahasa Inggeris ke Bahasa Arab adalah seperti berikut: bentuk pasif (78%), perubahan kata kerja menurut waktu untuk rujukan masa (65 %), kebebasan bersuara dan ekspresi (63%), istilah (54%), sebutan dan ejaan (51%), akronim (45%), gaya dan kerukunan (35%) dan makna yang abstrak (28%).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

After thanking *Allah Subhanahu Wataala* or the Almighty God for granting me the energy and capacity to further my educational qualifications, I would like to express my gratitude and utmost appreciation to my supervisor, Dr. Krishnavanie Shunmugam, co-supervisor, Dr. Sakina Sahuri binti Suffian Sahuri and former supervisor, Dr. Kulwindr Kaur, whose expertise, understanding and patience have added considerably to my research experience. I appreciate their vast knowledge and skills in many areas, admitting that once when I decided to quit the research due to very hard personal conditions, they encouraged me on until I successfully completed this research.

Very special thanks also goes to my wife for her motivation, encouragement, moral support and prayers to help me complete my M.E.S.L dissertation. I owe my wife the utmost eternal gratitude. Likewise gratitude directed to my mother and father who I owe them my utmost gratefulness.

Furthermore, my special thanks goes to Dr. Harald Olk, DAAD Representative and Visiting Senior Lecturer to University of Malaya, Dr Tariq Alani from the Faculty of Translation of Almustanseria University, Iraq, and Dr. Hassan Abdullah from the Translation Department of the Arab League in Cairo, for their valuable contributions and support.

In addition, I would also like to thank my other superior, friends and colleagues, and especially HE. Ambassador Abdulhameed Mubarak Alkubaisi, ambassador of the State of Qatar in Malaysia, for their assistance and support and encouragements provided at all levels and stages of my research project.

Besides the above people, I would also like to thank all the participants for my TAPs tasks, interviews and questionnaire survey who gave considerable portions of their time, effort, care and interest towards my research.

In conclusion, I recognize that this research would not have been possible without the support and assistance of all the concerned staff of the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University Malaya, and I would like to express my gratitude to them. Upon all, I would like to thank the Almighty God, for giving me the determination and blessings to complete my dissertation successfully.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

1	e.g.	For example.
2	%	Per cent.
3	i.e.	That is.
4	etc	Et cetera.
5	UIAM	Universiti Islam Antrabangsa Malaysia International Islamic University Malaysia
6	SL	Source Language (in this study, it refers to English).
7	TL	Target Language (in this study, it refers to Arabic).
8	ST	Source Text (in this study, it refers to English).
9	TT	Target Text (in this study, it refers to Arabic).
10	UN	United Nations.
11	DC	Diplomatic Corp.
12	SPL	Special Purposes of Language use.

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