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Ideological Power and Translational Mediation in Political Propaganda: A Critical Discourse Analysis of English to Arabic Translation

Ahmed Ismaeel Mohammed[1]

Abstract: This research presents a detailed Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) from Arabic to English translation of political propaganda which argues that translations serve as a key site for ideological recontextualization than just a series of information. In the investigation of the link between anglophone power and the Arab continent, the sorts of political discourse that are translated may be considered as a crucial starting point to shape public thinking, exercise soft power and legitimate policy. The study, therefore, seeks to synthesize the macro sociological point of critical discourse analysis in line with micro textual insights of critical Translation Studies. Through various steps of examination, of a well-prepared corpus which comprises of war rhetoric, humanitarian papers, digital media, and international legal instruments, the study seeks to identify a strategic translation execution. These processes include narrative framing, ideological lexicalization, deployment of foreign approaches and grammatical obfuscation. The analysis shows how the presumed operations systematically empower hegemonic narratives that are constructed to polarize social identities and fight neo-colonialism as well orientalist discourse within the Arab purview. Likewise, the study explores the agency of paradoxical translators and ethically identifies the dilemmas, and it transformative impact of the digital environment on propagandistic sort of translation. The outcome affirms the main hypothesis with regards to the systematic mediation and debated nature of translated entity. The study concludes that the necessity of critical CDA can inform translation praxis as a category of epistemic observation. It states that future research should focus on the demystification of the ideological labor of translation to foster a more ethical political conscious method in cross lingual political engagement.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, thought, political marketing, translation studies, English Arabic translation, mediation, discursive power, framing, hegemony, digital media.

[1]*Tikrit university, College of Arts/ English Department, a.ismaeel@tu.edu.iq*

1.Introduction

The translation of political information may represent a crucial entity where the geopolitical strength is enacted linguistically. This is especially visible in the Arabic and English contexts, where the irregular association between a widespread global language and a strategic essential region turns translation into a maximum conceptual effect. This research seeks to deal with the core idea that translation is a means of ideological recontextualization and not mere neutral transfer. Translators of such political discourse may serve as a mediated gents that deals with grammatical, narrative and lexical selections that actively change the reality for the potential audience through the amplification and reframing source information to connect with specific political massage.

Despite the significant studies in Critical Discourse Analysis, and Translation studies, there are a number of gaps that exist with regards to essential research on English Arabic propaganda translation, especially in the literature. This study attempts to deal with this gap particularly through the provision of rough analysis of how power is defined through some specific translation strategies. The paper will clarify the conversational part of cross lingual propaganda and provide a critical substitute with literary vitality towards perceiving contemporary geopolitical discourse.

2.Research Objectives

The purpose of the study is:

1. To find and categorize the major linguistic and conversational strategies applied towards the translation of political propaganda from English to Arabic.
2. To examine how these strategies can function with ideological tendencies to build identities, reinforce challenges, and legitimize worldviews.
3. To link the micro level translation selections to their macro contexts of institutional patronage and broader geopolitical powers.
4. To analyse the limitations with regards to agency and other ethical issues of translators functioning within the ambit of these power systems.
5. To create a critical analysis framework for translator training, researchers, scholars and improved public media literacy.

3.Research Hypotheses

This study set out to test the below hypotheses:

1. The Domination Hypothesis: Translations from Western-inclined organizations will domesticate plans to naturalize the source ideolog and delete challenging contents.
2. The Systematicity Hypothesis: Translational moves from coherently arranged structures that deal with a predictable technology for conversational innovation for conversational framing.
3. The Neo Colonial Discourse Hypothesis: The English to Arabic flow will act as a conduit to naturalize the Western centric lexicon and improve hierarchical power connections.
4. The Contested Space Hypothesis: Translations of the same procedure through the opposition of patrons will expose radically various narrative framings, to prove translation in a primary site of conversational struggle.

4. Research Questions

1. What precise translation strategies can be applied with regards to ideologically informed concepts in English to Arabic political discourse?
2. How do these approaches conversationally frame the actors or obscure agency and trigger audience answers?

3. How do organizational patronage and socio-political domain determine translators' selection?
4. What does this conciliation display with regards to the function in upholding irregular power relations?

5. Theoretical Framework: An Integrated Critical Model

The systematic power of this study is reliant upon deep analysis of two complementary and knowledgeable traditions, viz: Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as well as the critical wing of Translation Studies (TS). This major component of textual manipulation and social power seeks to avoid pitfalls of clear textualism and sociological conception.

5.1 Critical Discourse Analysis: Language as Social Practice and Conceptual Involvement

CDA offers the epistemological and ontological basis which insist that language is a social practice that is constituted by the social set up and power relations [1]. It discards the positivist assertion that language is a simple reflection of a preordained reality as against the active constructs of social realities, relations and identities.

Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Dialectic

Framework is grounded on the analytic scaffold of this research [2]. It states that any discursive event which include a translated text should be examined at three interrelated levels, viz:

1. Text: The linguistic object on its ground which includes: cohesion, grammar, textual structure and vocabulary. In this instance, the item seeks to identify the what of translation.
2. Discursive Practice: Includes the procedures of text production, consumption and distribution. This comprises the analysis of translation brief, the institutional patronage governing the translation and the channels of dissemination as well as the presumed audience [3]. This level deals with the how and why of the translation form.
3. Social Practice: The wide socio-political, ideological and historical context. This form positions the translation within a macro structure like the neo-colonial capitalism and the political economy of the contemporary global media [4]. This stage offers the explanation of the so what connecting to the social power.

Van Dijk's Ideological Square and Socio Cognitive Approach: Van Dijk provides a critical mid-level theory that connects societal structures with the individual mentality and textual microstructure [5]. This ideological square emphasizes on the positive information about us, and the negative perception about them. The information in this context, is one of the potent heuristics for translating the selections made. The translators intentionally enact this stand with the use of lexical divide, selective inclusion and differential agency assignment and selective omission or inclusion.

The Discourse Historical Approach (DHA): This idea is connected to Ruth Wodak which states that the necessity of historical situation for sufficient interpretation[1], [6]. It asserts that current translated propaganda cannot be inferred in a vacuum but it must be part of a sustained historical chain of discursive depiction. The translation of a modern U.S. policy statement on the Middle East, for instance, echoes and re articulates centuries of colonial and orientalist discourse. The DHA also focuses on argumentation strategies and topoi (commonplace argumentative motifs) that are translated and redeployed.

5.2 Critical Translation Studies: Arbitration, Rewriting, and the Politics of Crossing Borders

Translation Studies offers the specific theoretical elements of dissecting the practical act of cross linguistic and cross-cultural intercession, that moves from the entity of the technical to the political view.

·Translation as Rewriting under Patronage: André Lefevere's this seminal work reasserts translation as the most potent form of rewriting a process which is controlled by the two major limitations of patronage which include the individuals and the institution and poetics which comprises the dominant aesthetic and ideological norms [3]. The translator operates within the ambit of constraints to ensure that the text is acceptable and

understood based on the target culture's poetic ideology. Theis model is important towards the perception of a translation.

The Ethics of Domestication and Foreignization: Lawrence Venuti's analysis of the translator's "invisibility" is one of the central tenets of examining power in translation [7]. The author contrasts the domestication of translation plans that can reduce the foreign form of the text by making it to conform with the fluency of the values and the linguistic tenets of the target tradition which intentionally maintain the foreign items to challenge the projected culture and its conventions. In propaganda, this form of domestication is constantly applied to inform imperialist agenda as a common sense or general values, whereas foreignization may be used by some resistant groups to state a distinct, oppositional identity and to encourage the reader into a crucial position.

Narrative Theory and Framing in Translation: Mona Baker this utilizes the narrative theory to translation to argue that translators become active participants in the construction of narratives tat change the world [8]. The author presents Temporal and Spatial framing, Selective Appropriation and Labelling as well as positioning to locate readers in relation to narratives and choose the place where a translated version of the narration begins and ends. This model is exceptionally sufficient to track how the story of a conflict is narratively resurfaced in translation.

Postcolonial Translation Theory: Scholars such as the Tejaswini Niranjana and Gayatri Spivak basically positions translation by connecting it extricable to the history of colonialism [9], [11]. They contest that translation was one of the technologies of colonial power, used to develop an inferior and often weak image of the colonized Western consumption. A postcolonial view on English Arabic translation is therefore, important, to force an awareness of epistemic violence, the ways in which western models can frame the narration of silent subjugation and knowledge systems and historical experiences [11].

5.3 Synthesis: Toward an Integrated Critical Model for Analyzing Translated Propaganda

The integrated model proposed here is dynamic and recursive. It begins with the close textual analysis (Fairclough's first dimension) of a translated propaganda text, using CDA's tools to identify ideologically significant shifts at the linguistic level (lexis, transitivity, modality, metaphor, etc.). These shifts are then interpreted as specific translation and framing strategies (e.g., domestication via euphemism, narrative framing through selective omission) drawn from TS scholars like Venuti and Baker. These strategies are understood as performing particular discursive and ideological functions (e.g., positive self-presentation, obscuring agency) as theorized by CDA scholars like van Dijk. The deployment of these functions is then linked to the discursive practices (Fairclough's second dimension) of specific institutional patrons (Lefevere) and explained within the broader social practices (Fairclough's third dimension) of historical (postcolonial theory) and contemporary power relations between the Anglophone and Arab worlds. This model does not treat the translation as a flawed copy but as a new, ideologically saturated discursive event in its own right, demanding analysis as a primary artifact of political communication.

6. Methodology: A Critical, Contextual, and Comparative Approach

This study uses an interpretive design that is inclined in qualitative approach. This approach emphasizes on depth analysis and explanatory potency over the breadth of CDA. The methodology is clearly critical on aiming not only to describe an item but it explains the association between translation and ideological stance.

6.1 Corpus Development and Data Choice

The study employs purposeful sampling of corpus and parellel texts English Source Texts [STs] and the Arabic Target Texts [TTs]). The foundation of the study is empirically based and later the corpus is stratified to confirm the analytic diversity and the presentation of several major variables.

Genre/Venue: The corpus comprises: the corpus of analysis includes political speeches and related official statements, International Legal/political documents, Reports form the international Organizations and NGOs,

News Reports and Editorials from the international broadcasters and Digital propaganda Content which include human rights reports, tweets, media translations and government accounts or militant groups.
Institutional Patronage: Texts are chosen to represent the ideological patronage which include Western State Apparatuses, such as the White House, Pentagon, the Uk Foreign Office; And the Internation Institutions like the IMF, UN and World Bank; next Western Aligned Global Media such as the France 24, BBC Arabic and CNN Arabic; others are Regional State Aligned Media like the Al Arabia, Arabia Sky News; Also Resistance and Non State Actor Media, for instance, Al Mayadeen, Al Manar, media outlets of Houthis or Hamas.
Thematic Focus: The choice is directed towards the recurrent, themes that can define the contemporary Anglo Arab political discourse; the War on Terror and ISI; the Israeli Palestinian conflict as well as other humanitarian interventions and the similar Responsibility to protect Libya and Syria; Arab spring, Iran nuclear diplomacy enhancement.

6.2 Analytical Process: A Three Phase Critical Process
The examination follows an iterative procedure that meticulously corresponds with Fairclough's three categories [2]:
Phase 1: Descriptive Textual Analysis (The Breadth of TEXT)
This stage includes one minute of side-by-side linguistic assessment of ST and TT pairs, which create a comprehensive map of shifts.
Focus Areas:
· **Ideological Lexicalization:** Methodical mapping of translation selections for politically-inclined terms. This create a semantic network to access how the complete lexical fields are moved, for instance, the field of violence and targeted killing vs assassination " "استهدافvs. ".(اغتيال"
· **Transitivity** and Agency Analysis: applying Hallidayan system functional grammar to explain who is documented as the Actor in material procedure, who is the Sensor in mental procedure. This takes note of a sort of shift from active form to passive voice or a form of nominalizations (for example, "the launch of the operation" in place of "we launched"), this can be referred to grammatical obscurity.
· **Modality**: Examining the translation of the modal verbs such as must, should, could and other adverbs like possibly and certainly to identify how levels of certainty permission are moderated to align with ideological aims.
· **Presupposition** and Implication: Classifying conventions baked into the ST and Tracking whether they are kept challenged of augmented in the TT.
· **Metaphor and Intertextuality:** Drawing the translation of theoretical metaphors such as war on terror or cancerous cells, as well as the Arab spring or storm and references to religious literary or historical texts.

Phase 2: Interpretative Analysis of Discursive Practice (The Breadth of DISCURSIVE PRACTICE)
This stage presents the complete textual results through the reconstruction of the translation's production, consumption and distribution.
Key Investigative Questions:
Production: Who commissioned the translation? What is covert and overt institutional ideology of the patron? Are there any known plan that guides the glossaries for instance the BBC's Terrorism Terminology Guide? That can dictate the selection? What are the possible deductions on the translator's own socio-political positioning?
Distribution: Through which medium was the Arabic translation be propagated, is it government websites twitter, telegram or TV broadcast? How does the channel affect the translation with regards to space limitations in headlines, orality and register?
Consumption: Who is the assumed or projected audience for instance the street policy, the Arab, the elites and the diaspora in the West? How can the variation segments of the projected audience with different political links interpret these selections according to their own mental schemata?

Phase 3: Explanatory Analysis of Social Practice (The Breadth of SOCIAL PRACTICE)

This stage links the specific examples of translation to the macro systems of ideology, history and power. It in fact responds to so What? Enquiry?

Contextual Planes for Explanation:

Historical Context: Interpreting the results in respect of the colonial hisroty of the region, the legacy of the past Cold War and the history of political intervention in the Western military?

Geopolitical Context: Positioning the translation within the current power struggles, the U.S. hegemony for instance and its various challenges, and the Gulf peninsula rivalries for instance Saudi Arabia vs Iran and other great power competition such as Russia and China.

Political Economic Context: one of the functions of translated discourse is to justify the economic policies such as structural adjustment, privatization, and austerity issues and debates on resource control such as gas, oil and international waters.

Socio Cultural Context: this deals with how translations align with the manipulation of contemporary discourses in the Arab world like the Islamism, nationalism and secularism and how these aspects interface with the persistent orientalist stereotypes in the Western Discourse.

7. Analysis and Discussion

7.1 Case Study 1: Semantic Fields and the Ontology of Violence: Manufacturing the "Terrorist"

Context: A U.S. Department of Defense press release detailing a counter terrorism drone strike.

ST Excerpt: "…a successful precision strike that neutralized a high value terrorist target and degraded the operational capacity of an affiliated terrorist network…"

TT1 (Western aligned Pan Arab Media, e.g., Al Arabiya): "… ضربة دقيقة ناجحة قضت على هدف إرهابي عالي القيمة و أضعفت القدرة التشغيلية لـ شبكة إرهابية تابعة…"

TT2 (Resistance affiliated Media, e.g., Al Mayadeen): "… عملية اغتيال بطائرة مسيرة استشهد فيها القائد الميداني فلان خلال مواجهته مع قوات الاحتلال التي تحاول تفكيك بنية المقاومة…"

In Depth Analysis:

Lexical Fields and Framing (Textual Analysis): TT1 genuinely imitates the sterile lexicon of the ST. “Precision Strike” can be termed " ",ضربة دقيقةwhich looks like a direct transfer of the military technical frame. "Neutralized" can be translated " ",قضت علىa clinical usage for th meaning of total elimination. “ a High value terrorist can be called term for elimination. " ",هدف إرهابي عالي القيمةintroducing the entire frame of security to introduce human and a complex political entity as dehumanized “target” as well as a network. This form of translation can actively be referred to what Van Dijk related as the “negative Other” the term Precision strike can be recollected as criminal (عملية اغتيال بطائرة مسand assassination or killing using drone can be considered as a form of cowardice, illegality or extra judicial killing [5]. "Neutralized" can be transformed into " استشهد فيها" a term instilled with religious and heroic sanctity. The “the terrorist target” can be rehumanized and then honoured as") "القائد الميداني فلانthe field commander). The connected terrorist network can be reframed as " بنية المقاومة"the system of the struggle), a related term used on political legitimacy and institutional cohesion.

Discursive Practice (Production/Patronage): TT1 replicates the organizational patronage in several media outlets where Arabic language is often aligned with financial or political link with Western Gulf states. Their linguistic alignment through their translation practice can be referred to us linguistic fidelity to the sources of frame where they serve to amplify the U.S. security interest and narrative in the zone. TT2 is the reflection of the media tool which serves military resistance composition as against the U.S. and their ally in the Israel. This translation is observed as the ideological warfare that deploys a powerful lexicon intended to garnish a weak narrative of heroic sacrifice as against the foreign attack and distinct adversary actions.

Social Practice (Ideological Function): This issue clearly illustrates case van Dijk's philosophical square in action via translation. TT1 triggers the positive Us the assumed successful parts and the negative them, in this sense, the terrorists it emphasizes the negative Them comprising the assassination and the occupying

forces and the positive Us (field commander, martyrdom, resistance). The translations here are not attained but are making competing ontological assertions: Is the event a authoritative security operation of a complete war crime? Is the presumed actor a matyr or a criminal? This potently supports H4 that is the contested space and indicates a systematic lexical framing (H2).

7.2 Case Study 2: Grammar of Impunity: Obscuring Agency in Humanitarian and Diplomatic Discourse

Context: A spokesperson for the international group comments on the civilian casualties after a devastating attack

ST: "We are mindful of reports of civilian casualties. Errors may have been made in the mist of war. A thorough evaluation will be carried out. We deeply regret any recorded loss of innocent lives."

Common Official TT (e.g., on a coalition Arabic website): " نحن على علم بتقارير عن سقوط ضحايا مدنيين. ربما حدثت أخطاء في ظل ضبابية المعركة. سيتم إجراء تقييم شامل. ونحن نأسف بشدة لأي فقدان لأرواح أبرياء."

In Depth Analysis:

Transitivity and Nominalization (Textual Analysis): The ST is a one of the effective agents to obscure grammar, which is a key feature of what Chilton calls "strategic impersonalization" [12]. The active, accountable "we" is only devoted to caring or reactive processes: "are aware," "regret." The key action—"errors may have been made" is considered agentless voice. The actor that committed the mistake is completely erased in the linguistic filed. "Assessment will be carried out" is another form of passive and loss of innocent life" is a nominalization, which turns the violent procedure of killing into a fixed and abstract noun. Mistakes have been made ") "ربما حدثت أخطاءmaybe mistakes took place, like a natural occurrence that further distanced human agent. This is a good example of grammatical domestication (H1) that can serve as a specific conceptual function.

Discursive Practice (Institutional Poetics): This grammatical approach is a genre part of an official Western military and diplomatic discourse. Some translators are working with diplomatic and military discourse within these organizations are considered to be part of the discursive community and the reproduce and share grammar of impunity." Their main function is to manage accountability and produce a conventional discourse into the media culture and transform the political landscape. The translation may be brief and implicitly demand this sort of interaction.

Social Practice (Power and Legitimation): The philosophical role is legitimation via obfuscation. Through the systematic removal of coalition's agency from sentences to describe harm. it can frame civilian deaths as an accidental regrettable and inevitable consequences ("fog of war"). It is good to see it as a violation of international humanitarian law and a reckless act that resulted to the death of innocent persons. There is an effect of translation mediation within the discourse of serious irresponsibility presenting linguistically available and normal in Araic political reports, eventually to insulate powerful actors in the state to continue and by extension to call for political and legal consequences. This is in consonance with H2 and it reflects a neo colonial flexibility where the discursive practices of the potent articulated (H3).

7.3 The Digital Turn: Hybridity, Velocity, and Algorithmic Intervention

The scrutiny must be extended to the digital domain, which fundamentally changed propagandistic translation.

Memetic Translation and Fragmentation: Advertising is now translated in pieces such as the tweets, headlines video snippets, headlines. These can be decontextualized the units and it can possess a charge with minimum linguistic component. A translated hashtag like "#) "مقاومة_ستنتصرResistance will triumph) or "#) "الحرب_على_الإرهابWar on Terror) achieves huge edging work.

Machine Translation (MT) and Post Editing: The use of edited post by some media outlets and other state actors will introduce latest forms of algorithmic thought. MT systems are target towards very large corpora that unavoidably reflect the progressive linguistic partiality and geopolitical conversations and can automatically present and intensify lexical division and conventional connotations, for example a pairing of "Arab" with "terrorist". This produces a clear mechanical objectivity that covers embedded ideological choices to raise new queries on agency [8].

Non-State Actors and Transgressive Hybridity: As seen in some cases, with TT2, and sampled by some groups like ISIS, in order to build transnational ideology expert, make use translation. They apply a consistent hybrid of mixing religious Arabic terminology through there lniks with universal jihadists or cyber cultural English loanwords to create a special modern militant identity that appeals cross-linguistic domains. This will serve as a blink example of the power of translation to offer alternative realities among their communities.

8. Conclusion

This study determines that English to Arabic translation with regards to political propaganda is a deep issue in the field of discursive power, to function as a prism that alters thoughtful content. The results affirm that the main hypothesis reveals translation as a systematic component responsible with practice that predominantly serves to domesticate hegemonic narratives. Deconstructing this translational intervention is an important component of epistemic demystification that crucial in the perception of the realities of linguistically construct across borders.

9. Recommendations

1. Adoptive of sustainable interdisciplinary studies between Critical Discourse Analysis and Translation Studies.
2. Mix critical discourse literacy and ethical perception into translator training curricula.
3. Promote public media literacy initiatives which focus skepticism and comparative studies of translated political discourse.
4. Establish higher standards of transparency and accountability for official translation procedure in international communication.
5. Increase future research through larger historical corpora and studies on audience response of translated propaganda.

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