

منهج صرفي نحوي لترجمة الأفعال الإنكليزية في النصوص الأدبية إلى اللغة العربية

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A Morpho-Syntactic Approach to Translating English Verb Phrases in Literary Texts into Arabic

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المستخلص

تعد الترجمة ميدانا رائعا وممتعا للبحث لاسيما الترجمة الأدبية. إن مشكلة البحث الرئيسة هي كثرة التراكيب النحوية والصرفية التي تزخر بها اللغة العربية الأمر الذي يشكل عائقا لدى الضالعين في مثل هذا النوع من الترجمة ويجعلهم في حيرة من أمرهم وأنى لهم اختيار أنسب هذه التراكيب واكفأها للفعل الإنكليزي المراد ترجمته إلى اللغة العربية. ويفترض البحث أن مترجمي الأعمال الأدبية لابد أن يكونوا على دراية كاملة بأنواع الأساليب الصرفية والنحوية في كلا اللغتين الإنكليزية والعربية وكيفية توظيفها بدقة لكي تبدو ترجماتهم رائعة. هذا ويهدف البحث إلى تزويد أولئك المترجمين بنوع من المعرفة العملية بهذا الصدد وكيف بإمكانهم أن يحققوا تكافؤا كبيرا مرتكز بشكل كبير على المعنى من جهة وعلى دقة اختيار التركيب الأكفأ في اللغة العربية من جهة أخرى. وقد توصل البحث بأنه ليس من الضرورة بمكان أن يترجم الفعل في اللغة الإنكليزية إلى فعل في العربية ولكن يستطيع المترجم في بعض الأحيان أن يترجمه إلى عبارة اسمية أو شبه جملة ظرفية أو جار ومجرور في اللغة الهدف.

الكلمات المفتاحية : الترجمة الحرفية - علم الصرف - الترجمة - التراكيب النحوية .

Abstract

Translation is a wonderful area of study especially the literary one. Unlike other kinds of renditions, literary translation needs a lot of cognitive processing on the part of translators in that the selecting of one of the multi grammatical forms available in Arabic is not as easy as a cake considering the implied meaning that syntactic or morphological structure suggests.

It could be stated that the main problem of this research is the multi syntactic and morphological structures in Arabic and how translators decide on which is the most suitable equivalent for the English verb to be translated.

It is hypothesized that translators involved in literary rendering must be fully- equipped with the various morphological and syntactic devices English and Arabic have and how to accurately employ them to produce good renditions. This research aims at providing literary translators with a sort of practical knowledge and how to achieve accurate equivalence greatly based on meaning on one hand and the precision of Arabic syntactic and morphological structures on the other. It can be concluded that it is not always suitable and accurate to render the English verbs into Arabic verbs. In the current study, however, the verb phrase can be successfully rendered into nominal, prepositional, or adverbial phrases.

Key Words : Literary translation , Morphology , Translation , Syntactic structures .

Introduction

English and Arabic languages belong to completely different cultures. Translators, as mediators between these cultures, face many problems in dealing with the different syntactic devices in both languages. What is more, English can be described as a syntactically- oriented language whereas Arabic is morphologically-oriented a matter that adds fuel to the flame. Unlike other kinds of renditions, literary translation needs a lot of cognitive processing on the part of translators in that the selecting of one of the multi grammatical forms available in Arabic is not as easy as cake considering the implied meaning that syntactic or morphological structure suggests.

Broadly speaking, ambiguity and equivalence play major roles in translation field especially when it comes to literary texts. Literary rendering is characterized by a wide range of communicative meanings. It can be added that the task of those literary translators becomes more formidable because they should realize which meaning is intended and how they select the most appropriate form to convey that meaning.

Jakobson (1959:232_239) maintains that equivalence cannot be defined in terms of sameness and synonymy in translation theory.

Equivalence is something difficult to realize in translation because there are no two languages in the world having the identical structures (Boushaba, 1988:21).

This research aims to shedding light upon the numerous morphological and syntactic forms in Arabic in comparison with the English verb phrases. It also tries to help the translators how to carefully depend on context and context in arriving at the intended message expressed by the verb phrase to be transferred into Arabic. For realizing the aims of the research, it can be fairly hypothesized that each syntactic structure in both languages has certain meaning.

So, literary translators should be aware of the various meanings expressed by the numerous forms in Arabic in order to bring their task to success. For the purpose of analyzing data, a number of verbs from ‘Macbeth’ and ‘The Merchant of Venice’ with their Arabic realizations have been selected.

It is highly hoped that this research will be valuable and useful for those engaged in literary rendering in particular and translators in general. In conclusion, the procedures followed in this piece of work is citing the literature in concern with somehow critical views by the

researchers. The data has been gathered from various sources including books, plays, translations, and online websites.

Literature review

Translation can be viewed differently. Each scholar has his own opinion about it. A number of definitions of translation will be given here. Nadjib (2001:7) says: "Translation is the transmission of speech from one language to another, or it is the explanation of speech in another language". Ghazala, (2006:5) on the other hand, maintains that translation is mostly used to denote to all the methods and procedures used to bear the meaning of the source language into the target language.

On his part, Bell (1991:5_6) describes translation as the face in another language of what has been stated in the source language, conserving semantic and stylistic correspondences. Kamil and Hazem (2019), conclude that students faced a problem in translating tenses with an alternative questions To put it in a nutshell, translation is the transferring of the original meaning into the target language on the basis of equivalence preserving the source semantic message and the norms of the target language.

Literary translation

Recreating what has been already created! It is the role of the literary translators to recreate those literary genres and produce well-formed texts. It is worth mentioning that literary rendering implies the translation of all sorts of literature which contain drama, prose, and poetry (http://studymoose.com/literary_translation).

Literary translation has to do with interpreting texts written in a literary language, which abounds in ambiguities, homonyms and randomness, as different from the language of science or that of administration. The literary translator is consequently the person who concerns himself with the translation of literary texts. A literary translator normally respects good writing by considering the language, structures, and content, whatsoever the nature of the text (ibid.)

Verb phrase in English

The purpose of this section is to illustrate the types of verbs in English. Unlike Arabic, English verbs are divided into two categories: lexicals and auxiliaries (Aziz, 1989:24) Lexical verbs are those carrying the meaning of the sentence. It can be added that lexical verbs are the basic components of the English verbal phrase. In other words, they are the head of those phrases (ibid :24).

Auxiliaries, on the other hand, are those verbs that cannot stand alone. They perform certain grammatical functions and help the lexicals to make meaningful sentences. It is worth mentioning that auxiliaries are divided into primary and modals (ibid:24.).

The verb phrase is used to build a clause. When the verb phrase consists of verb and an auxiliary, the verb is said to be the head word. Consider the following examples:

1. Suha might have been waiting outside for you.
2. I should have gone to school today.

It is clear from the above examples in analysis that ‘might’ is a modal verb, ‘have’ and ‘been’ are primary auxiliaries in (1).

So, waiting is the head of the verb phrase *might have been waiting*. The lexical verb ‘gone’ in (2) is the head word of the verb phrase *should have gone*. ‘Should’ is a modal verb and have is a primary auxiliary. That is why the verb phrase in English is called complex verb.

Verb phrase in Arabic

It has been previously mentioned that Arabic is a morphologically-oriented language. In other words, the Arabic verb phrase undergoes many internal changes as opposed to the English one that almost changes syntactically not morphologically, (Aziz. 1989:29).

Unlike English, the Arabic verb can perform its grammatical functions by the aid of certain particles that stand with the verbs in the structure of the phrase. Some of these particles are used for negation, interrogation, and others (ibid :29.). Arabic does not only depend on the verb phrase in expressing the intended meaning.

It can interchangeably uses other types like nominal, or prepositional phrase to name a few. (<http://arabic.tripod.com>).

The verb phrase actually begins with one of its three types, past, present and command. It usually consists of an act verb that needs an object to complete the meaning. It is content with a subject.

The following examples illustrate:

جاء الرجل

Jaʿa al rajul-u

Came-3rd singular the man- nominative

“The man came.”

ذهبت اميرة الى الطبيب

Thahabat amia ila al- tabeib-i

Went 3rd singular Amira to the doctor-Genitive
“Amira went to the doctor.”

كتب الولد الدرس
Kataba al-wlad-u al-darss-a
Wrote. 3rd the boy-NOM the- lesson-GEN
“The boy wrote the lesson”.

Nominal Phrase in Arabic

The main purpose behind mentioning the nominal phrase in this study is to improve that there are some verb phrase constructions has their nominal phrase correspondence in Arabic one. Consequently, it is worth mentioning for the foreigners of English and Arabic to have an account information about the nominal phrases. Moreover, a nominal phrase in Arabic is that one starting with a noun. Sometimes, it would be better if the translator transfers the English verb into a noun in Arabic because the meaning will be more accurate. Arabic differs semantically in aspect of noun morphology. (Hazem and Meteab: 2019: 97). Consider the following examples:

من العراق نحن
Mina al Iraq-i nahn-u
From the Iraq-Gen we- Nom
“Iraqis, we are.”

So, from the above example, / nahnu/ is a nominal subject to the construction.

البيت تصميمه جميل.
Al-bait-u tasmimu-h-u Jameel
The- house-Nom design-it- beautiful
‘The house, its design is beautiful.’

الرجل مشكلته سهلة.
Al-rajul-u mushkilatu-h-u sahla
The man- Nom problem-his-NOM easy
‘The man, his problem is easy.’

السيارة لونها ابيض.
‘The car, its color is white.’

Prepositional Phrase in Arabic

Any phrase with a preposition at the beginning is called a prepositional phrase. The preposition governs its complement in the

genitive case (Aziz, 1989:182) As it is the case with the nominal phrase, it is necessary for translators to render an English verb into a prepositional phrase depending on the meaning intended (ibid:183). Consider the following examples:

الكتاب على المنضدة

Al kitab-u alaa al minthadat-i
The book-Nom on the table- Gen
“The book is on the table”

بالعلم تترقى الامم

Bil I’lim-i tataraga al umam
With science-Gen rise the nation
“With science, the nations rise”.

Adverbial Phrase in Arabic

Arabic adverbs belong to particles and nouns (Aziz, 1989:177) Adverbs usually describe verbs. They can also modify an adjective, another adverb, or even a main clause (ibid: 177).

سافر ماجد يوم الخميس

Safar Majid yaumma al khameis-i
“Majid travelled on Friday”.

In the following example the Arabic structure doesn’t have a verb but it could be understood from the sentence meaning.

ماجد امام الدار

Majid amamu al dari
“Majid is in front of the house”.

Data Analysis

The following English verb phrases are detected in Shakespeare’s two literary works, viz: Macbeth and The Merchant of Venice.

Then, we analyse these and translate these according to some Arabic translators. These verbs are:

Hath devised, ناط، ابتكر، ابتدع

shall love, يحب، سيحب

be lodge, يحطم

do slope, تقوض

is enthroned, تجلس ، تربع
must be, يكون، وجب
will grow, ينمو، سينمو
behold, انظر

Some translators translate English verb phrases into nominal phrases:
The following are:

Shall love,	الحب
need,	محتاج
awe,	المهابة، بهاء القدرة
is enthroned,	عرش
must be,	لابد
have loved,	قيد الاوابد
is,	هي
shall live,	حياة
part.	في التخلي

Considering the Morpho-Syntactic approach this research adopts, the researchers have noticed some of the creative changes the translators of the literary works in discussion have done. Throughout their translations, one can speculate that those translators are well-versed in both English and Arabic morphological and syntactic structures. It seems that they paid no attention to the original form, on the one hand, and paid great attention to the original message.

It is this point that literary translators should focus on. They should not be committed to the form of the original but to that of the target language. In many of the samples of the research, it can be seen that the English verbs haven't been translated to Arabic verbs.

On the contrary, the translators could successfully employ the alternative structures available in Arabic in order to faithfully and creatively produce their renditions building on the original message and norms of the target language, i.e. Arabic.

Findings and Discussion

Having analyzed the data, one can notice that the translators of both 'Macbeth' and 'The Merchant of Venice' have employed what is called

translation shift in their Arabic realizations. In other words, they haven't always rendered a verb phrase into its counterpart in the target language. By so doing, they could produce more effective renditions as far as the meaning is concerned.

English tends to make use complex verb phrase, whereas Arabic basically uses simple verb phrase.

Moreover, Arabic verbs are very rich in their forms and change according to tense, mood, person, number and voice, whereas English verbs have tense, aspect, mood, person, number. Arabic has not present perfect tense, so the translators use past perfect instead. It has shown that English verb phrase contains one or more words whereas Arabic has only one word.

Conclusions

Literary translation is a matter of recreation to a large extent. It is highly important to state that the form plays a vital role in this kind of translation. The translators can greatly change the structure of the target language in a way that keeps the original meaning unchanged on the one hand and produces a very creative translation on the other. It could be stated here that the English verbal phrase is structurally distinguished from the nominal one in that the information concerning mood, voice, aspect, and others is different from that carried by the noun group or phrase.

It is also vital to mention that the form and content go hand in hand in the process of creating literary renditions. All in all, literary translation is a very careful artistic craft in which a certain cultural aesthetic message is restructured and formed in a completely different cultural structure on the basis of retaining two vital things: the original message being communicated and the structural norms of the target language.

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