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•There must be a clear definition of the limits of the research and its population that the researcher is working on in his research.

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Editor-in-chief

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Back-Translation: A Strategy for Translation Quality Assessment

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تأريخ التقديم: ٢٠١٨/٩/٢٠ تأريخ القبول: ٢٠١٨/١٠/٢٢

Abstract

This study is an attempt to use the back-translation strategy to assess translations between Arabic and English. It is applied on four scientific and technical English texts from Newsweek magazine together with their Arabic translations from the Arabic version of Newsweek magazine. The Arabic ones were back-translated by three highly qualified translators at the Department of Translation/ College of Arts/ University of Mosul, and the resulting English translations were compared against the original versions. The reviewer's focal point of analysis is the forward-translations.

It is found that back-translation can be conducted between Arabic and English and the method is workable and useful in assessing the translation of non-literary texts. Also, the process of decentering, which is done by the forward-translator, is useful and illuminating. The analysis reveals that there are many instances of one-to-one equivalent between the source texts and the forward-translations. The back-translators are more competent and knowledgeable than the forward-translators.

Keywords: strategy, translation, professional.

1-Introduction

Back-translation is a process in which a text which has been translated into a given language is retranslated into the (SL). It is a difficult area of study because of the numerous obstacles the back-translator faces when doing this task. Such obstacles are related to linguistic as well as cross-cultural differences especially between

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languages that stem from different origins as is the case with Arabic and English. Another problematic issue in this regard is that the concept itself is still fuzzy and has not been thoroughly studied. Further, back-translation has been studied from a theoretical perspective more than a practical one. There is no clear basis for its practical application. There is yet another problem that may emerge while conducting back-translation: the proficiency of both the forward and the back translators. Are they of the same or different background knowledge?

The procedure has been used for various different purposes. Shuttleworth and Cowie (1997:14) state that since at least the middle of the 1970s the term has been used in the literature on Bible translation to illustrate the sometimes vast structural and conceptual differences which exist between (SL) and (TL). However, it is also sometimes simply used to refer to a GLOSS TRANSLATION (Gutt: 1991) of the original Biblical text. Harkness (2003:45) states that back-translation was initially developed for situations in which researchers were not familiar with the (TL). Hatim and Munday (2004: 335) believe that it can be used to explain the translation process for an audience that does not understand the (TL).
According to Munday (2009:170) it is sometimes used in contrastive linguistics as a technique for comparing specific syntactic, morphological or lexical features from two or more languages.

Back-translation is one of the most common strategies in cross-cultural research and involves looking for equivalents in languages through the translation of stimuli, survey items, interview data, central research concepts and so on (for more details see Bargiela-Chiappini et al, 2007: 168, 219). For example, in experiments involving cross-cultural comparisons, (e.g., testing the effectiveness of certain language strategies in two target cultures) back-translation can help improve the validity and reliability of experimental stimuli in the different languages involved. It requires that the quality of a translated stimulus material is verified by an independent translator translating back into the (SL). The source and back translated texts are then compared to determine how equivalent the different versions are, and to clarify or remove ambiguities.

The higher the equivalence achieved between the two versions of the experimental stimulus, the more valid and reliable it is considered to be. It is also used in business to develop equivalent advertising texts across cultures and to minimize language problems and cross-cultural gaffes commonly associated with international marketing campaigns (Bargiela-Chiappini et al, 2007: 168). This study tries to answer this question: Is back-translation reliable of being a suitable strategy for assessing translations? And to what extent can this method be accurate?

2-Scholars' Views about Back Translation

Back-translation, also called homeward translation, retranslation, reverse translation, two-way translation, bidirectional translation or translating translation, has been tackled by many scholars from various perspectives.

Richard W. Brislin, father of back-translation, who is one of the most quoted authors in the area of back-translation, claims that "translation quality can be predicted, and that a functionally equivalent translation can be demonstrated when responses to the source and the target versions are studied" (Brislin 1970:185).

Although back-translations were used prior to the 1950s (e.g., Stern & d'Epinary, cited in Brislin 1970:185), Brislin (ibid) introduced most psychologists to this extremely important technique. In its simplest form, back-translation has one person translate material from its (SL) into a different (TL). A second person then blindly (i.e., without seeing the (SL)) translates the material back into the (SL). Any discrepancies are discussed and resolved by the two translators.

Jacobsen et al., (cited in Brislin, 1969: 25) maintain that the back-translation method, in which one group of persons translates materials from the (SL) into the second language and then another group of persons translates the material back into the (SL), although rigorous in method, may produce a spurious sense of equivalence.

For Newmark (1993: 124), back-translation , the retranslation of the translation into the (ST) , must be distinguished from Nida's (1964) back-transformation , which is the analysis of the surface structure of a discourse into its underlying kernels in the same language , typically prior to translation,(for example, 'the beauty of her singing ' or 'her beautiful singing' become 'she sings beautifully'). Back-translation is studied scientifically in translation, since it can measure approximately the deviation between the (ST) and the (TT). It can usually, but not always, be a valid and valuable test for a translation. Back-translation may range from word-for-word translation to close translation which respects (TL) syntactic structures and collocations.

According to Newmark (1993: 124), there are perhaps six types of back-translation: lexical, collocational, syntactic, word order, text length, and metaphor.

The following is a brief explanation for each type:

1. Lexical: where the word is used in its primary sense and the (TL) has a clear one-to-one equivalent.
2. Collocational: Since the typical characteristic of a collocation is that its 'secondary' collocate is not used in its primary sense, a back-translation will often expose translationese.
3. Syntactic: A literal or a close syntactic back-translation may show up the non-existence of e.g., phrasal verbs, gerunds, verb nouns, or the infrequency of a structure in the (SL), and may be instructively performed at the level of groups, clauses or sentences.
4. Word order: A change in (SL) word-order in the (TL) may be anomalous or may alter emphasis of the source, making a lexical or a grammatical change preferable.
5. Text length: A comparison between (TT) and (ST) lengths is not often discussed. However, all translations should be economical, strictly 'relevant', and should eschew paraphrase.
6. Metaphor: Back-translations of metaphors may be useful in determining cultural differences as well as the translator's incompetence.

3-Decentering and Back-Translation

In principle, the notion of decentering for Brislin (1976:222) means that the research project is not centered around any culture or language. That is, the (ST) and the (TT) are of equal importance and open to modifications. The idiosyncrasies of each language under study contribute to the final version of the material to be translated.

Decentering according to Brislin (ibid) refers to a process by which one set of materials is not translated with as little change as possible into another language. Rather, material in one language is changed so that there will be a smooth, natural sounding version in the second language. The result of decentering contrasts with the awkward, stilted versions common when the material in one language is taken as the final content that must be translated with minimal change into another language.

Ibid (1976:221-2) traces the evolution of decentering and defines it in combination with the back-translation process. He (ibid) states that the decentering method, first suggested by Werner and Campbell (1970), is based on the process of back-translation which is commonly used in cross-cultural research. In back-translation a researcher prepares material in one language and asks a bilingual to translate it into another language. A second bilingual blindly (without seeing the source) translates the material back into the (SL). The researcher then has two (SL) forms to examine and, even if s/he does not know the (TL), make some judgment about the quality of the translation. To help researchers write material that can be translated into another language, the process of decentering is employed. If the back-translation process is used, it has the additional advantage of decentering the text away from the (SL) form (ibid).

Concerning the product of the decentering process, Brislin (1976:223) introduces two notions: etics and emics. Etics are those concepts that survive the translation-back-translation procedure since they are available in both languages, while the emic concepts are those concepts that are lost in the overall translating process simply because they have no counterparts or equivalent concepts in the other language.

Werner and Campbell (1970) believe that decentering may need to take place if words in the (SL) have no clear equivalence in the (TL). If the aim is collecting data in both the source and the target cultures, items in the source instrument (text) are changed to ensure maximum equivalence. Thus, the back-translated version of the source instrument is used for data collection instead of the source version, as it is considered most likely to be equivalent to the translated version.

Decentering, for Werner and Campbell (1970) is a technique which begins from a draft questionnaire in the (SL) in order to produce final questionnaires in *two* languages (source and target) through a process of paraphrase and translation between (SL) and (TL). Paraphrase is seen as a way of decentering the text in both languages that is, producing texts which are not 'centred on' or 'anchored to' a specific culture and language.

The use of a back-translation method does not eliminate the problems that are likely to arise from linguistic or cultural differences. Collaboration between experts in the two cultures or languages of interests is recommended in order to minimize cultural and linguistic biases.

The following figure exemplifies the relation between back-translation and decentering:

(SL)

Language (A)

Decentering

(SL)

(Simplified)

Translation

(TL)

Language (B)

Back-translation

(SL)

Language (A)

Figure (1) Back-translation & Decentering

4-Critique of Back-Translation

Back-translation, like any assessment method, has its own merits and demerits. However, it proves, at least in this research paper, to be a successful tool for assessing translations and particularly the translations of scientific texts. The following is a survey of some of its advantages and disadvantages.

4-A- Advantages:

Back-translation does not only provide the researcher with some control over the end result of the translated instrument in cases where s/he does not know the (TL), it also allows for further refinement of the translated version to ensure equivalence of the measures. (Brislin et al., 1973: 5).

Beck et al., (2003:68) recommend back-translation because it gives researchers the ability to control the translation of the text. When researchers are unfamiliar with the (TL), and ask a bilingual to translate the items, the researcher is not able to assess the quality of the translation. If back-translation is used, the researcher can check the quality of the translation by comparing the two versions of the instrument: the source and the back-translated versions. Knowledge of any errors found also provides the researcher with some insight into the competencies of the translators.

4-B-Disadvantages:

Back-translation, like any other strategy, suffers from some shortcomings stated by some scholars as follows:

Nida (1964), reporting on the translation of a humorous essay into several European languages, concludes that back-translation leads to extremely poor results. Another disadvantage is that this strategy is very labour intensive and time-consuming (Kanjee, 2006).

According to Ozolins (2009:6), back-translation may lead to wrong identification of discrepancies, usually responding to surface features brought about by differences between languages and giving false concern to monolingual authors. Of these differences are the following:

1. Apparent discrepancies in using singular or plural.
2. Plural forms used instead of singular ones for example, 'hip' and 'knee' have different grammatical genders in several languages.
3. Use of non-use of capital letters.

4. Contractions (can't, it's, don't …) in the back-translation when the source does not contract.

5. Apparent discrepant uses of tenses.

Many such apparent linguistic discrepancies are perfectly familiar to translators (and bilingual in general) but often opaque to monolinguals. Some scholars, such as Hervey and Higgins (2002:268), believe that back-translation results in a text that will almost certainly not be identical to the source one.

5-Forward-Translation VS. Back-Translation

A forward-translation simply implies translating the text into the chosen language (e.g., from English into Africans), by a single translator or a group of translators (Kanjee, 2006: 62). Although this method is more cost effective, there may be a loss of information through literal interpretations (McGorry, 2000: 76). This first version, for (Kanjee, ibid), would then be given to a pilot group of test-takers to answer and then the test-takers would be questioned by judges as to the meaning of their responses. The judges would then decide if the responses given reflect a reasonable representation of the test items of culture and understanding. If a high percentage of the test-takers present a reasonable representation of an item, the item is regarded as being equivalent. A valuable advantage is that the functioning of any item is provided directly by the test-takers. The disadvantage, however, is that there are many conditioning values (e.g., personal, cultural, linguistic) that may affect this process and hinder the results.

As for back-translation, according to (Struik: 2011:40), it is known as the double translation method and involves translating the forward-translation i.e., the (TT) back to the (SL) by (a) second translator(s). Back-translation is used for checking errors between the back-translated and the source versions. However, Kiraly (1995:47) states that any errors made in the forward-translation could unduly affect the back-translation.

When the translator is aware that the forward-translation will be validated by a back-translation, it may influence the translator's approach to forward-translation. The translator may produce a very literal forward-translation to help ensure that the back-translation will produce a document that is very similar to the source version.

If the back-translated version seems to lack equivalence in meaning to the source, it is not easy to determine whether the differences are as a result of poor translation, or cultural and linguistic differences in cross-cultural research. Furthermore, when the translated version is similar to the source version, one remains uncertain about the nuances of meaning across languages and cultures (Struik, 2011:40).

According to Larson (1984:483-492), back-translation is a way to check a translation and is done by having someone else, who is bilingual in the source and receptor languages, make a back translation of the translated text into the (SL). He should do this without having read the (ST) used by the translator. This back-translation will let the translator know what is being communicated to this person. A back-translation is not meant to be a polished idiomatic text in the (SL). Rather, it is a literal rendering of the translation to be used for checking purposes. It should have each lexical item rendered literally.

Meanwhile, Larson (ibid) maintains that translating and back-translating differ. The former uses natural forms, the latter uses literal forms in order to show up the structure of the translation being back-translated. Back-translation is especially helpful if the translator wishes to consult with someone who does not speak the receptor language .The back-translation can then be used by the consultant to understand what is being communicated by the translation. On the basis of the back-translation, the consultant will be able to ask questions about analysis of the (ST)and the application of translation principles. In an extended translation project, it is usually good to have someone trained as the back-translator. A person who is truly bilingual and trained to do back-translation can be of great help in improving the quality of the translation.

Back-translation according to Larson (ibid) can also gauge the accuracy of a translator's work. Inaccurate terminology can be readily identified; moreover, back-translation can be useful for revealing cases in which the translator misunderstood the content of the (ST).

A translation may sometimes be accurate but not clear, i.e. it does not communicate to the people who are to use it. The forms of the language used should therefore be those which make the message of the (ST) as easy to understand as the (ST) itself was to understand. Clarity of a translation is checked via presenting the translation to persons who are not familiar with the (ST) and ask questions which will show what they understand (Larson, ibid: 487).

Back-translation does not test naturalness. It focuses on meaning equivalence rather than naturalness. It is a commonly used method to test accuracy (Douglas and Craig, 2007: 30) In translation one uses natural language but in back-translation one uses literal language (Larson ibid:490,492).

6-The Model Adopted

The model adopted in this thesis is Larson's (1984) together with some of Newmark's (1993:124) six types of back-translation. Larson suggests that this model is applicable to back-translation. She believes that there are three main criteria for assessing translations: Accuracy, Clarity and Naturalness. Within the first criterion accuracy, which includes the sub-criteria: omission, addition, and sound or unsound meaning, the assessor looks for any unjustifiable omissions or additions as well as wrong meanings, which the back-translator does in the transfer process and which indicate where the forward-translator made the mistake.

In this connection, Downing (2003: 9) states that back-translation is the most useful method for assessing whether there are any terminological errors, omissions, or additions in a translated text. The second is clarity. It is checked by giving the back-translated text to persons who are not familiar with the forward-translation to judge whether it is understood or not. As for the third criterion, naturalness, Larson (1984: 492) and Pym (2010: 30) believe that it does not work with back-translation because the latter focuses on meaning equivalence and produces literal translation rather than naturalness. This study is limited to the first criterion (accuracy) and the second (clarity). Within accuracy and under the sub-criterion meaning, two of Newmark's (1993:124) six types of back-translation, mentioned earlier, will be included.

7-Data Analysis

Under this heading, the following procedure will be followed. The source texts (STs), the forward translated texts (FTs), and the back-translated texts (BTs) will be presented together with their analyses. All will be subjected to discussion, but the focus of attention and assessment is going to be on the (FTs) for they are the texts that are to be assessed.

Firstly, decentering which is the interpretation of difficult words in the (STs) will be tackled to see whether the back-translators provide renderings that are exactly similar to the decentered items. Secondly, the analysis will tackle instances of omissions-justifiable and unjustifiable in the forward-translations with explanation for each of them and suggested alternatives for the wrongly omitted items. Thirdly, instances of additions- also justifiable and unjustifiable ones in the forward-translated texts-will be dealt with; discussion will focus on those justifiably and unjustifiably added items with suggested alternatives for the wrong ones. Fourthly, the meaning axis holding lexical and syntactic meanings will be presented. The points in which the forward-translator was successful will be highlighted. Similarly, the weak points in the forward-translations will be highlighted with suggested alternatives for any mistranslation.

The previously mentioned eclectic model i.e., Larson's accuracy and Newmark's types of back-translations will be applied to all the (FTs) to judge the extent to which the (FTs) are correct, accurate, and meaningful. It is note-worthy that the translation/back-translation process with revision will be as follows: Decentering, Forward-translation, back-translation, and revision.

To sum up, In this paper the translation procedure of analysis to be followed consists of the following steps: 1-Decentering (interpreting and explaining the difficult expressions in the (ST)), 2- Forward-translation (translating the (ST)), 3-Back-translation (translating the forward-translation back to the (ST)), and 4-Revision (searching for any discrepancies in the forward-translation then correcting them; those discrepancies are found when comparing the back-translated version against the (ST)).

Example (1)

ST (1)

A Shot of Hope

In medicine there are three kinds of good ideas: the obvious ones, the not-so- obvious ones and the sort that Dr. Edward Jenner came up with in 1796. He had heard from his neighbours in rural Gloucestershire, England, that people who caught cowpox did not get the more-lethal smallpox very often and he suspected the first disease was triggering the body's defences against the second. The notion must have sounded pre-posterous to his colleagues. At the time they did not have words for the "immune system" and "germs" because they had not figured out either concept. Nonetheless, Jenner believed in his idea, and so did a mother who let him test it on her 8-year old son, James Phipps, when cowpox broke out on her farm in the spring of that year. The doctor collected pus from an infected milkmaid, shot it into the boy, and waited. After six weeks he injected the boy with smallpox. He waited some more until he was sure James would not get sick. Then he announced the dawn of an era. He had invented the vaccine. No doubt Jenner sounded crazy when he proposed
his idea. Revolutionaries often do.

Newsweek October 1, 2007

FT (1)

جرعة أمل

في الطب هنالك ثلاثة انواع من الافكار الجيدة: البدهية، وغير البدهية جدا، و الافكار التي توصل اليها الدكتور ادوارد جينر عام ١٧٩٦. فقد سمع من جيرانه في ريف غلوكسترشاير في انجاترا، ان الاشخاص الذين يصابون بجدري البقر، ينجون في معظم الاحيان من الاصابة بالجدري الاكثر فتكا، و خطر له ان الوباء الاول يحفز دفاعات الجسم ضد الثاني. لابد من ان المفهوم بدا منافيا للعقل بالنسبة الى زملائه. ففي ذلك الوقت، لم تكن لديهم كلمات يطلقونها على "جهاز المناعة" و "الجراثيم" لانهم لم يكونوا قد اكتشفوا ايا من المفهومين. غير ان جينر آمن بفكرته، و كذلك فعلت أم سمحت له بان يختبرها على ابنها جيمس فيبس البالغ من العمر ثماني سنوات عندما تفشى جدري البقر في مزرعتها في ربيع ذلك العام. اخذ الطبيب قيحا من عاملة مصابة و حقن الصبي و انتظر. وبعد ستة اسابيع، حقنه بالجدري. وانتظر بعض الوقت ليتأكد من ان جيمس لم يمرض. ثم اعلن ولادة حقبة جديدة. لقد اخترع اللقاح . و لاشك في ان جينر بدا مجنونا عندما اقترح فكرته. فهذا ما يحصل غالبا مع الثوريين.

نيوزويك ٢ أكتوبر ٢٠٠٧

BT (1a)

A Dose of Hope

In medicine there are three types of "good" ideas: the axiomatic, the very non-axiomatic and those ideas by Dr. Edward Jenner of 1796. He heard from his neighbours in the Gloucestershire countryside-England, that people contracting cowpox were often spared catching the more fatal smallpox. At first he thought that the first disease triggers off the human immune system against the second. To his colleagues, the idea seemed unreasonable for they had no such terms as immune system and germs-both concepts had not been known yet. But Jenner held strongly to his idea, and so did one mother who allowed him experiment it on her eight-year old son, James Phipps, during a smallpox breakout on her farm in the spring of that year. The physician took some pus from an infected working-woman, inoculated the boy and waited. Six weeks later, he injected him with smallpox and waited again for some time to ascertain that James did not catch the disease. Then he heralded a new era; he had invented the vaccine. Undoubtedly, Jenner sounded crazy when he suggested his idea, as often happens with revolutionaries.

BT (2b)

A Dose of Hope

In medicine there are three types of constructive ideas, the common, the uncommon and the ideas that Dr. Edward Jenner came up with in 1796. The doctor had heard his rural neighbours in Gloucestershire - England say that people who were infected with bovine pox would in most cases survive the more dangerous smallpox. It occurred to him that the first
epidemic stimulates body defences against the other.

It must have seemed that this concept was counter-intuitive for his colleagues who at that time had no words to label immunity system and germs because neither had been discovered then. However, Dr. Jenner fervently believed in the soundness of his idea and so did a woman who allowed him to try that experiment on her eight-year-old son James Phipps when bovine pox spread on her farm in the spring of that year.

The doctor took pus from an infected worker and injected the boy and waited six weeks before injecting him with smallpox. Then he waited for a while until he was sure that the boy did not get the disease before declaring the birth of a new era, the discovery of vaccine. Undoubtedly Jenner was looked upon as insane and that often happens with every new idea.

BT (3c)

A Dose of Hope

In medicine, there are three kinds of good ideas: axioms, hypothetical, and the ones presented by Dr. Edward Jenner in 1796. Dr. Jenner heard from his neighbours in Gloucestershire in England that people who are infected with cowpox survive the more serious infection of smallpox. He had an idea that the first disease stimulates the defence of the body against the second. The idea certainly seemed unbelievable for his colleagues. At that time, they had no words to call "immunity" and "germs" because they had not discovered any of the two concepts yet. However, Jenner believed in his idea and so did a mother who allowed Jenner test the idea on her son, eight-year of age, James Phipps. When cowpox prevailed in her farm in the spring of that year, the doctor took pus from an infected worker and injected the boy and waited. After six weeks he injected him with smallpox and waited for a while to make sure that James has not been infected. Then, he declared the birth of a new era. He invented the vaccine. No doubt, Jenner seemed crazy when he suggested his idea. This mostly happens with revolutionaries.

Discussion:

The following is a thorough analysis of the above texts:

1. Decentered Expressions

In this discussion there will be a survey for the most problematic expressions that occurred in the (ST). These expressions will be elaborated and explained in simple and plain words. The shared understandings of the meaning of the (ST) on the part of the forward-translator and the understandings of the meaning of the forward-translation on the part of the back-translators will be highlighted. When the decentered expressions of the (ST) are the same as or similar to the back-translations of their translations, then both the forward-translator and the back-translator's understandings are the same. This means that the first translator has appropriately translated the (ST). The following are some instances of decentering:

a- The word (shot) in the (ST), which was forward -translated into (جرعة), was inferred by the forward-translator as (dose).The three back-translators back-translated the (FT) word also into (dose). The back-translations of the word and the decentered original expression are very close in meaning. It can be concluded that the meaning of the (SL) expression in the medical register was inferred almost correctly by the forward-translator but the interpretation of the back-translators was exactly equivalent.

b- The word (preposterous) in the (ST), which was translated into (منافيا للعقل), was inferred by the forward-translator as (unreasonable, unsound, etc.). Back-translator (1) rendered it into (unreasonable), back-translator (2) rendered it into (counter- intuitive), and back-translator (3) rendered it into (unbelievable). The interpretation of back-translator (1) and the forward-translator are the same. The two other back-translations reflect the same meaning.

(ولادة حقبة) c-The word (dawn) in the (ST), which was translated as was understood by the forward-translator as (birth, beginning, start, etc.). Back-translators (2&3) provided the word (birth) which resembles that interpretation of the forward-translator. Back-translator (1) provided similar meaningful rendering: (heralded a new era), which literary yet means happy news.

d- The word (more-lethal) in the (ST), which was translated into (الأكثر فتكا), was understood by the forward-translator as (more fatal, dangerous, serious, causing death, etc.). Back-translators (1), (2), & (3) provided the expressions (more fatal, dangerous, and serious) respectively.

2. Omission

In dealing with omission in the (FTs) and the (BTs), the following can be noticed: In the process of translation, the translator may omit a word or an expression which already exists in the (ST). This omission can be justifiable or unjustifiable. The former will be advantageous to the forward-translator and vice-versa. There will be a suggested alternative for any unjustifiable omission the forward-translator made. It is note worthy to say that the unjustifiable omissions made by the back- translators are due to those made by the first translator. Both are detected by comparing the back-translated text with the source one. When an omission is found in a certain place in the back-translation, it is an indication that the forward-translator has omitted something in the very place in the source. Once an omission is found in the back-translated versions, the reviewer (researcher) immediately recourses to the forward-translation to spot and discuss it.

2.1 Unjustifiable Omissions

No such omissions are found.

2.2 Justifiable Omissions

a- The word (sort) in the source did not appear in the back-translations; it was omitted from the forward-translation. This omission does not harm the forward-translation because the meaning is still there thanks to the addition of (الأفكار) in the forward-translation.

b- The negative article (not) in the source expression (did not get) did not appear in the back-translations; the forward-translator omitted it in his translation. However, the meaning is there for the forward-translator supplied the word (ينجون)and back-translators (1, 2, &3) rendered it into (spare catching, survive, and survive). So, the omission of (not) did not reverse the meaning of the forward-translation; it is more economical.

3. Addition

The forward-translator, when doing a translation, may add some information that does not exist in the (ST). Addition, just like omission, can be advantageous or disadvantageous to the translation. Detecting instances of addition in the forward-translation is done when back-translating the forward-translation to the source and comparing the source with the back-translated texts. Those positive additions enrich the translation, while negative additions devaluate it. Again negative additions in the back-translations are not the back-translators' fault; they are the fault of the forward-translator.

3.1 Unjustifiable Additions

No such additions are found.

3.2 Justifiable Additions

After comparing the back-translations and the (ST), the following additions can be detected:

a- The forward-translator used reiteration through adding the noun phrase (الأفكار) to substitute for the (SL) noun phrase (the sort) which anaphorically refers to (good ideas). Back-translators (1 &3) used demonstrative reference (those) and pronominal substitution (the ones) which maintain cohesion through reference to (good ideas). Back-translator (2), however, used reiteration as the forward-translator did providing (the ideas) as equivalent to (الأفكار). All the three back-translations, therefore, are correspondent in meaning to both the (FT) as well as the (ST).

b- In the forward-translation the demonstrative pronoun (هذا) preceded by the conjunctive (ف) which does not exist in the (ST) was added. Consequently, in (BTs) (2&3) the words (that and this) are added, while (BT) (1) does not contain this addition. However, it is appropriate and sound.

4. Meaning

4.1 Lexical Meaning

Here, the aspects concerning lexis in the forward-translation in which the forward-translator was successful and unsuccessful will be highlighted.

4.1 Disadvantages

a- The expressions (obvious, not-so-obvious) in the (ST) differ from their counterparts in the BTs. Back-translators (1& 2) provided (axiomatic, the very non- axiomatic, axioms, and hypothetical) respectively, which are not exact equivalents in that they reflect some shade of the meaning. This can be due to the forward-translator's rendering of the (SL) words into (البدهية وغير البدهية جدا) which are wrong renderings. The forward-translator should have provided equivalent expressions such as (شائعة و غير شائعة) or (معروفة و غير معروفة). The correct meanings of these expressions are then (known and unknown) or (common and uncommon). Back-translator (2) provided (common and uncommon), which, though different from the forward-translator's rendering, shows that he has cognitively recognized the (ST) wording.

So, the suggested rendering is: (شائعة و غير شائعة) or (معروفة و غير معروفة).

b- Back-translator (1, 2, & 3) provided the expressions (working woman, worker, and worker) for (عاملة) in the forward-translation. These back-translated expressions when compared with the original expression (milkmaid) did not convey the exact meaning of the word. The forward-translator should have translated (milkmaid) into (حالبة أبقار) rather than (عاملة) which refers to various professions.
So, the suggested rendering is: (حالبة أبقار).

4.1.2 Advantages

At the lexical level, the forward-translator succeeded in many points, in the translation. This is obvious when comparing the (ST) with the three back-translations. The most prominent of these well-translated items are going to be highlighted.

a- The three back-translators rendered the word (جرعة) in the (FT) into (dose). By comparing (dose) and (shot) in the (ST), one can argue that both expressions share a similar meaning. The forward-translator succeeded in conveying the meaning.

b- Back-translator (2) rendered (came up) in the (FT) into (توصل إليها with) which is exactly identical to the (SL) expression, so there is a one equivalence between the original and the translated -to-one provided (by) and (presented) (٣& ١)translators -expressions. Back respectively. Bothconvey the intended meaning.

finite verb (triggering) in the (ST) was translated into-The non -c يحفز)), and then back-translated by back-translator (1) into (trigger off). Thus there is a one-to-one equivalence between the source and the translated expressions. Back-translators (2&3) both supplied (stimulates) which also conveys the (SL) meaning.

4.2 Syntactic Meaning

Since the (FTs) and the (BTs) were both performed by highly qualified and knowledgeable translators, they are not likely to make mistakes in the grammatical structure of sentences. However, there are certain differences that exist between the two languages; of these are the problems of the perfective and progressive aspects between English and Arabic which require special attention on the part of the translator. The following are some pitfalls on the part of the first translator which were noticed in the (BTs) when compared with the (ST):

a- The expression (was triggering) was translated into (يحفز) and its back-translations were (triggers off, stimulates, and stimulates) respectively. The forward-translator should have captured the progressive aspect in the translation. It should have been rendered into (كان يحفز).

So, the suggested rendering is: (كان يحفز).

Notice the following:

The sentence (In medicine, there are three kinds of good ideas) in the (ST), whose translation is (في الطب هنالك ثلاثة أنواع من الأفكار الجيدة.), is the same in lexis and grammar as the (BTs). It can be inferred that the (FT) was so accurate in achieving one-to-one equivalence between Arabic and English in this regard.

Consider the table below:

Decentering			Omission		Addition		Lexical Meaning	
ST (expressions)	TT (expressions)	BT (expressions)	Unjustifiable Omissions	Justifiable Omissions	Unjustifiable Additions	Justifiable Additions	Disadvantages	Advantages
Shot	جرعة	Dose		Sort		الافكار	البدهية وغير البدهية جد	جرعة
Preposterous	منافيا للعقل	unreasonable		Not		هذا	عاملة	توصل إليها
Dawn	ولادة حقبة	birth				ف		يحفز
More - lethal	الاكثر فتكا	More fatal						

Findings and Conclusions:

This study concludes that back-translation is a very thorny area of study but it is a very helpful strategy for assessing translations. Although it is a very difficult area of study, it is a very helpful strategy for assessing translations. Its application is more difficult than its theoretical part. Back-translation is still in its infancy concerning its practical application. Back-translation is a valid method for assessing translations between Arabic and English and is best applied when dealing with non-literary texts that are predominantly intended, mainly, for expressing facts. The discrepancies that emerged in the back-translations are due to those inconsistencies which already exist in the forward-translations. Back-translation attaches more importance to content than style; meaning is its main concern above all. The steps followed in implementing back-translation are mainly objective. Those shortcomings that arose in the forward-translations, which were detected after comparing the back-translations with the (STs), are minor ones and do not distort the facts and the main ideas by the authors. All translators are vulnerable to err. So, their translations are open to revision and refinement. Now, since back-translation is a quality assessment tool, then, it can be applied to various kinds of texts.

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ترجمة الترجمة : استراتيجية لتقويم الترجمات

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المستخلص

تُعدُّ هذه الدراسة محاولة لاستخدام استراتيجية ترجمة الترجمة لتقويم الترجمات ما بين اللغة العربية والإنجليزية، وقد طبّقت على أَربعة نصوص إنجليزية تقنيَّة وعلميَّة من مجلة نيوزويك مع الترجمات باللغة العربية المأخوذة من نسخة المجلة باللغة العربية، وأُعيدت ترجمة النصوص باللغة العربية على يد ثلاثة مترجمين محترفين في قسم الترجمة في كلية الآداب في جامعة الموصل، وعوينت النصوص الإنجليزية الناتجة على ضوء النصوص الأَصليَّة، وينصب تركيز المراجع في التحليل على الترجمات الأُولى .

ولقد توصَّل البحث إلى إمكانية إجراء الترجمة العكسية أَو ترجمة الترجمة بين اللغتين العربية والإنجليزية وهذه الطريقة نافذة ومفيدة في تقويم ترجمات النصوص غير الأَدبية، فضلًا عن ذلك فقد وجد أَن طريقة تبسيط النص قبيل ترجمته، وهي واقعة على عاتق المترجم الأَوَّل، مفيدة ومنيرة للذهن، ويظهر التحليل أَنَّ هناك العديد من أَمثلة المكافئ بين النصوص الأَصليَّة والمترجمة، ولقد أَظهرت الدراسة أَنَّ المترجمين العكسيين أَكثر كفاءة ومعرفة من المترجمين الأَوائل .

الكلمات المفتاحيَّة: استراتيجية، ترجمة، محترفون .