Saudi Iranian Conflict in English and Arabic Translated News Reports

Asst. Instructor Tahseen Ali Hussein Al–Romany

Wasit University –College of Arts–Iraq

Translation Department

talkubachi@uowasit.edu.iq

Tel+9647803993299

Asst. Lecturer Muhannad Hadi Abdul–Ameer

Wasit University –College of Arts–Iraq

Translation Department

maltalqani@uowasit.edu.iq

Tel+9647816039135

Abstract

The present study aims at investigating the Arabic translations of several English news reports on Saudi Iranian conflict to show translators draw on their ideological positioning in introducing events. In the present study, Appraisal Theory and Fairclough's trilateral model of Critical Discourse Analysis have been used to compare the English source texts with their translations into Arabic. The examples have been selected from BBC news reports published in the BBC Website at different dates. The major purpose of this study is to merely highlight the linguistic features of news reports about the Saudi Iranian conflict.

Key words: News translations ,conflict ,up-scale ,down-scale ,ideological positioning ,deviation ,CDA .

I. Introduction .

Many media discourse studies using the CDA approach have revealed that distinct ideological background is recognized in introducing similar events in various news sites (Fairclough 2010 ; Van Dijk 2002; Fang 2001).The ideological positioning can be seen in news translation, in which faithfulness to the source is required and predicted. In studying ideological exploitation in monolingual discourse (Fairclough, 2010:67) or in bilingual comparison, CDA has been largely applied. A number of CDA studies have discovered ideological disagreement in Journalistic translation. Other studies have dealt with how sources of evaluation are utilized to facilitate ideological positioning in translating news.

The present study surveys the Arabic translations for many English news on Saudi - Iranian conflict. The translations are from Reference News from the BBC website. The present study aims at showing how linguistic resources are utilized by translators.

I.I. Ideology and CDA .

Ideology has widely been debated (Conboy, 2007 :104) and differently been comprehended by scholars from various fields (Thompson , 2001:105).

Differences in understanding exist even with the field of media analysis scoping from tradition of false consciousness to how " meaning (or signification)serves to sustain relations of domination". The definition by Thompson is considered as "probably the single most widely accepted definition of ideology" (Eaglton, 1991:5) ,and is considered here.

Ideology became the main focus of CDA for the last 30 years, and discourse of media, particularly in introducing news events (van Dijk 2002:). CDA is applied to demonstrate the relationship between the language use and processes of how language is "imbricated" (Fairclough 2010: 73). Fairclough proposes a trilateral CDA model. Any communicative event can be trilaterally analyzed in light of how power relations and power are embedded in texts. These dimensions are the text, besides the practice of discourse and the practice of socio-cultural practice.

Fairclough ,1993:166 considers "Text " as any written texts or transcription of spoken interactions. More particularly it means "the product of the process of text-creation" (ibid).

Fairclough ,1989:24 considers discourse as " more informative and relevant" than the term text, since a discourse is a "Whole process of social interaction of which text is just a part" . In CDA, text is the beginning of any process of analysis. Partially , the text consists of traces of a production process. Additionally, guides of interpretation are involved in this resource. A Text is implemented with discourse practice, which itself is implemented within socio-cultural practice.

There are three ways of performing discourse analysis: description ,interpretation and explanation. This means that ,linguistic features can be explained in the analysis of text. The relationship between the productive and interpretative processes of discursive practice is explained in analytical processing. Finally, "the relationship between discursive and social practice is explained in social analysis " Fairclough, 2010:97.

III. Ideological Positioning .

It is a significant feature for particular textual interpretation . In light of Critical Discourse Analysis ,such back grounding is recognized through guides in the text. "texts do not typically spout ideology", Fairclough's,1989:71.They so "position the interpreter through their guides that bring ideologies to the interpretation of texts". Similar to Faiclough's opinion about ideological positioning, White (2006:,37) indicates that news events are " a value laden", ideologically determined discourse which potentially positions the media audience .In news discourse, sources of evaluation are important in transmitting ideological values and analyzing ideological positioning. Accordingly, evaluation is a major feature of "this ideological functionality" in that news reporting improves the ideological function of authorizing ,preserving , and making particular systems of value and belief seem natural, while sustaining its claim to be authentic and objective (ibid).

Sources of evaluation in discourse of media position the audience to " take either negative or positive views of the participants, actions, happenings and state-of-affairs therein depicted" (ibid). Sources of evaluation have so far been most fully illustrated in appraisal theory regarded as the "most concise approach to evaluative language as a tool of interpersonal positioning" (Lauerbach 2007). The appraisal theory offers researchers with a "systematic, detailed and elaborate framework of evaluative language" (Bednarek, 2006: 32). at describes sources of evaluation as a system that is composed of three branches: attitudes , engagement and graduation. The sub-system of graduation is regarded central to the whole Appraisal system (Martin and White 2007,136). Values of attitudinal resources "construe greater or lesser degrees of positivity or negativity" and engagement values resource "scale for degree of the text producer's investments in the utterance"(ibid).

The expression of semantic value of evaluation in graduation are said to be as two branches of graduation in appraisal theory (ibid): Focus and force. Force consists of those values which scale according to intensity and amount .It involves the up-scaling and down-scaling orientations. Focus includes values which scale according to proto-typicality and preciseness, in which graduation helps to interpret classifications , making central and marginal kinds of things. It has the orientations of improving or decorating , drawing on moving the specification to proto-typicality or to be peripheral in the category.

Graduation is significant in creating writer-reader solidarity(Martin and White 2007,139).Since the 1990s, appraisal theory has become systematically applied to the of ideological positioning and referred to in English and Arabic monolingual media discourse . However, to the best of the researchers knowledge, the application of the method of the evaluative study in translation is still insufficient.

"Subjective aspects such as ideological and evaluative meanings in translation have been tackled by Hatim and Mason (1990:118)".Their work embodies the concepts of ideology and culture into the analysis of translation. "One of the most explicit statements about ideology from a critical linguistic and discourse analysis perspective" in studies of translations is given by Hatim and Mason (Munday 2007, 199). "A text-linguistic model of evaluative texture" can be formed utilizing Fowler's (1985) model of critical linguistics using data from news websites. Yet for analyzing

interpersonal meanings, Hatim and Mason (1990) mainly regard variations in modality in translation. While evaluation is a significant characteristic of language and cannot be avoided in translation.3. Evaluative meanings have been scantly tackled in studies of translation, most likely due to the lack of a through model for analyzing this subjective and interpersonal notion in translated reports Thompson,2001:85 .

1. The framework of Analysis .

"Evaluation and ideological positioning" suggest the particular use of language. To perform a thorough analysis of this particular feature in news reports, a tentative model is created. It begins with checking the ways how sources of evaluation are utilized by translators of news to put up values and ideological positioning that differ from the original source.

Deviations can be recognized and defined with a comparative analysis of the evaluative meanings in the Source Text and the TT, using the system of graduation in AT. Resulted are then explained with processing analysis , in which presenting and explaining news and their translations are analyzed to explain the textual aspects evidenced in the textual analysis. Then, un-explanation that seeks possible interpretation from the social-analysis of ideological contexts in which translations of news reports are provided.

In light of CDA, translations of news are considered as a practice of media discourse, including processes of interpretation and production. For the introducer of news text , sources of evaluation cannot be avoided for particular ideological positioning. They are considered the guides which the reader relies on which the reader relies in interpretation of events stated in the news text. In light of the model analysis introduced above, Arabic translated and English source reports are analyzed hereunder to discover how and why sources of evaluation are utilized by the translators in making different positioning in translating news.

2. Analyzing and discussing Data .

The analyzed samples are English reports of events related to Saudi Iranian conflict translated to Arabic. The English STs were published at the BBC News Websites. The analysis of the text is centered around the deviations of evaluation recognized in the comparative analysis of the ST and the TT. *Deviation of evaluation* refers to a linguistic resource in the TT

varying in evaluative meanings from its equivalent ST (Pan 2012).

Deviation and analyzing news reports

The deviations sometimes have implications of ideology and make different background in the translated news reports. The examples below are cases in point. All examples list the source text first, then the translated text.

Example 1

ST: **"The young and increasingly powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is waging a long war against Houthi rebels in neighboring Yemen".** (Web,November 12,2017)

TT :"الأمير محمد بن سلمان، ولي العهد السعودي الشاب وصاحب النفوذ المتزايد، يشن حربا طويلة الأمد ضد الحوثيين في اليمن المجاور". (**Web, November 2017**)

In the first text, the ST introduces the young powerful crown prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed Bin Salman . The translation is an instance of the powerful crown prince waging a war against Huthi with omitting the word rebels as a matter of down-scaling them. This translation is likely to lead the Arabic reader to have a negative status, rather than a positive by depriving Huthi from the character of rebels. However, the target is introduced less specifically .

Example 2

ST: **"The Saudis say the rebels are materially supported by Iran, a claim Tehran denies".(BBC Whebsite,2017)**

TT : "ويقول السعوديون إن الحوثيين يتلقون دعما من إيران، وهو الاتهام الذي دأبت طهران على نفيه".

This example shows a deviation in describing Huthi rebels, in the source text they are described as rebels ,but in the translated text they are described as Huthi only.

Processes of narrating news events vary due to the contexts in which they are presented (Halliday 1994, 108-44),   time, manner, causes and space of the events .Similarly, the manner of presenting the events in the ST is different from the TT, which leads to deviations of changed orientations specially in force of graduation. Particularly, such

changes appear in limiting numbers and enhancing level of quality and vigor of process.

Example 3

- **"Fighting has resumed on the fringes of Yemen's port city of Hudaydah, according to residents, raising fears for a newly agreed truce".(BBC Website,2018)**

"وقعت اشتباكات متفرقة على أطراف مدينة الحديدة اليمنية، وهو ما أثار

مخاوف من انهيار الاتفاق على هدنة الحديدة".

In Example (3), in the TT, there is an omission. In the ST, the word residence is found ,but in the TT it is omitted. Thus, the TT sounds less negative than the ST. *Dissimulation* refers to ways utilized in translation to obscure the presumptions or propositions introduced in the source texts. In light of CDA , analyzing what is present and what is absent the analysis of what is the same degree of importance. Omitting a proposition in the target text may often be utilized to resist the ideology which is embedded in the source text.

Example 4

- **ST: "The ceasefire for the port was only agreed between the government and rebels at talks in Sweden on Thursday. It is hoped Hudaydah, occupied by Houthi rebels, can be used to bring in supplies for starving millions".(BBC Website,2018)**

- "وتوصل الطرفان المتحاربان الخميس إلى اتفاق وقف إطلاق النار بالحديدة في ختام محادثات جرت بينهما في السويد.ويأمل الجميع أن تسمح الهدنة في المدينة، التي يسيطر عليها الحوثيون، بتوصيل المساعدات الإنسانية إلى ملايين اليمنيين المهددين بالمجاعة".

In Example (4), there are two deviations: the first one is the mistranslation of the word *Tuesday* by making it Thursday, in the TT. The other deviation is by down-scaling the danger that threatens millions of Yemeni. In the ST, there is the phrase "starving million, while in the TT this phrase is translated less negatively.

Example 5

ST: **"Iran has supported Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad in his fight *against opposition groups and the so-called Islamic State (IS)".(BBC Website, December, 2018).***

"ودعمت إيران الرئيس السوري، بشار الأسد، في حربه ضد جماعات المعارضة وتنظيم الدولة الإسلامية".

Apart from background information, omissions can be utilized to deal with assumptions constituting unpreferred interpretation. In the target text, the translator omitted the phrase "the so-called" in a clear attempt to up-scale the so-called Islamic state. So, the translator tries to make IS as known group by all readers or specifically to the Arab readers. This is a clear evidence of ideological positioning by omitting the phrase so-called.

Evaluative values are scaled up in introducing information, while negative values scaled down .

Table one
Data Corpus

Source Text	Target Text	Type of Deviation
1–"The young and increasingly powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is waging a long war against Houthi rebels in neighboring Yemen".	"الأمير محمد بن سلمان، ولي العهد السعودي الشاب وصاحب النفوذ المتزايد، يشن حربا طويلة الأمد ضد الحوثيين في اليمن المجاور".	Omission
2–"The Saudis say the rebels are materially supported by Iran, a claim Tehran denies".	"ويقول السعوديون إن الحوثيين يتلقون دعما من إيران، وهو الاتهام الذي دأبت طهران على نفيه".	Change
3– "Fighting has resumed on the fringes of Yemen's port city of Hudaydah, according to residents, raising fears for a newly agreed truce".	"وقعت اشتباكات متفرقة على أطراف مدينة الحديدة اليمنية، وهو ما أثار مخاوف من انهيار الاتفاق على هدنة الحديد".	Omission
4– "The ceasefire for the port was only agreed between the government and rebels at talks in Sweden on Thursday. It is hoped Hudaydah, occupied by Houthi rebels, can	"وتوصل الطرفان المتحاربان الخميس إلى اتفاق وقف إطلاق النار بالحديدة في ختام محادثات جرت بينهما في السويد.ويأمل الجميع أن تسمح الهدنة في المدينة، التي يسيطر عليها الحوثيون، بتوصيل المساعدات الإنسانية إلى ملايين اليمنيين المهددين بالمجاعة".	Mistranslation

be used to bring in supplies for starving millions".		
5– *ST:*"Iran has supported Syrian President Bashar Al–Assad in his fight against opposition groups and the so–called Islamic State (IS)".	"ودعمت إيران الرئيس السوري، بشار الأسد، في حربه ضد جماعات المعارضة وتنظيم الدولة الإسلامية".	**Omission**

Conclusion .

1. The evaluation deviation in the translated texts are due to certain factors embedded in the sociocultural contexts of the original text and the translated text.

2. The value conflicts between the two cultures leads to different reporting perspectives.

3. The conflict tends to suggest distinct ideological positioning in the English source text and Arabic translated text.

4. The manner of presenting news events in the source texts is different from the target texts.

5. Presenting the events causes deviations of change orientations mainly in force of graduation.

6. Variations appear in limiting numbers and enhancing level of quality and strength of process.

7. Source texts and target text undergo utilizing linguistic resources to evaluate and implicitly express attitudes in introducing news facts.

Recommendations .

In light of the findings of the present study, the two researchers recommend the following:

1. Translators should have a considerable sociocultural awareness of the source and the target texts .

2. The translated text should be an identical copy of the orginol text.

3. Original texts and their translations should avoid utilizing linguistic resources to evaluate and implicitly express attitudes in introducing news facts.

4. Conducting further studies about other news websites to find out whether it is possible to generalize the findings of the present study or not.

5. News websites should assign qualified language experts to review the translated news reports before publishing.

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