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Ellipsis as A Cause of Ambiguity in Translation

Lect. Layth N. Muhammed*

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1.1 Introduction :

Ellipsis is a term used in grammar to refer to a sentence where for reasons of economy, emphasis or style, a part of the structure is omitted and which can be recovered from the scrutiny of the context. Ellipsis is used to avoid redundancy and to achieve a cohesive style in both forms of language: spoken and written (Crystal, 1980: 159). Biber (2002: 230) defines ellipsis as the omission of elements which are recoverable from the linguistic context or situation. It takes place when we leave out items which we would normally expect to use in a sentence if we follow the grammatical rules (ibid.). Ellipsis is the economy of the language, enabling us to avoid the unnecessary repetition of words. For example,

(1). I was to take the east path and Steve Δ , the west Δ . (www.gsbe.co.uk)

(= I was to take the east path and Steve was to take the west path.)

De Beaugrande (1981: 49), states that ellipsis is repeating a structure and its content but omitting some of the surface expressions, or the omission of one or more elements from a construction, especially when they are supplied by the context. As for Halliday and Hasan (1976: 142-144) ellipsis was defined as 'substitution by zero'. They refer to it as SOMETHING UNDERSTOOD where understood is used in the special sense of 'going without saying'. Like all cohesive agencies, ellipsis contributes to the semantic structure of the discourse. But unlike reference, which is itself a semantic relation, ellipsis sets up a relationship that is not semantic but lexicogrammatical: a relationship in the wording rather than directly in the meaning (Halliday, 2004: 562). Ellipsis marks the textual status of the continuous information within a certain grammatical structure.

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I.2 Criteria for Ellipsis

To distinguish ellipsis from other kinds of omission , it is important to emphasize the principle of **verbatim recoverability** that applies to ellipsis , that is , the actual word(s) whose meaning is understood or implied must be recoverable .(Quirk et al.,1985 : 884)
.An element to be ellipited must satisfy all the following criteria :

(a) The ellipited words are precisely recoverable .

This means that in a context where no ambiguity of reference arises , there is no doubt as what words are to be supplied . For example,

(2). She can't sing tonight , so she won' t **Δ**.(= She can't sing tonight , so she won't sing)

It is clear that in example (2) the word *sing* is ellipited . However , the expression "precisely recoverable" does not necessarily mean "unambiguously recoverable" (ibid.). . Consider the following examples:

(3). The suspect admits stealing a car from a garage , but he can't remember which **Δ** .(ibid .:885)

The anaphoric **which** in this example is ambiguous ,it could mean either *which car* or *which garage* . That is, we are left with an ambiguity in determining which element is referred to by the anaphoric **which** in this example (ibid).

b) . The elliptical construction is grammatically defective .

Some structures are, in some sense, syntactically defective : the verb or adjective lacks its normal obligatory complementation . Consider the following example :

(4). Must a name mean something? Of course it must . [mean something] (Halliday,1989:298)

The missing complementation of the modal **must** in the reply of the question above is the lexica verb **mean** and the pronoun **something** which can be understood through the context of the sentence . That is , the reply can be understood as : Of course it must mean something .

(c) The insertion of the missing words results in a grammatical sentence (with the same meaning as the original sentence)

This third condition of ellipsis is met by the examples we have so far considered . However, it distinguishes between the following constructions :

(5). While (I was) writing , the phone rang.

(6). (*Since I was) knowing no French , I could not express my thanks .

The insertion is not possible in (6) because the verb *know* belongs to a category of verbs of stative meaning which lack progressive forms (Quirk , 1973 : 45- 47). Thus , while example (5) can by this criterion be classified as ellipsis , (6) is not .

(d) The missing words are textually recoverable , and are present in the text in exactly the same form.

It may be held that textual recoverability is the surest guarantee of ellipsis, since without it , there would be a room for disagreement on what particular word or expression has been ellipped . Within this criterion there is an even stronger criterion , which distinguishes example (7) from (8) below :

(7) She might sing tonight , but I don't think she will (sing tonight).

(8) She rarely sings , so I don't think she will (sing) tonight. (Quirk et al., 1985 : 887).

The ellipped expression in (7) is an exact copy of the antecedent (sing tonight), while in (8) the ellipped verb is morphologically different from its antecedent(sings).

However, both illustrate what , for most grammatical purposes , is the same kind of ellipsis . That is , it remains true ,in particular that the ellipsis of *sing* is precisely recoverable (ibid.).

Yet, Eckersley and Eckersley (1960 : 318) argue that the missing words could not always be present in the text and their recoverability may depend on the context. Consider the following example,

(9) What if I refuse to answer? (ibid.)

What are the missing words in this question? Does it mean :*what happens* if I refuse to answer ? or *what will you do* if I refuse to answer ? That is, the listener is left with an ambiguity as to determine which elements are referred to in this question.

1.3 Types of Ellipsis

In terms of recoverability , Quirk et al .,(1985 : 895 – 900) classify ellipsis into three types:

textual , situational and structural .

1. Textual ellipsis:

Textual ellipsis makes a distinction between anaphoric ellipsis (antecedent precedes) and cataphoric ellipsis (antecedent follows). In anaphoric ellipsis the antecedent must have precedence over the elliptical construction, by taking either an earlier position in the sentence, or higher position. Cataphoric ellipsis occurs in a clause which is subordinate in relation to the clause in which the antecedent occurs. The following examples are illustrative:

(10) Mary can beat Ann more easily than Δ Phyllis (=Mary can beat Ann more easily than Mary can beat Phyllis) Anaphoric ellipsis.

(11) If you want me to Δ , I'll lend you my pen. (= If you want me to lend you my pen, I'll lend you my pen) Cataphoric ellipsis (ibid.: 895)

2. Situational ellipsis:

Situational ellipsis are mostly found in conversation where the omission and interpretation are dependent upon the situational context (Biber et al., 1999:156). This is frequently found in declarative and interrogative sentences:

(a) Ellipsis in declarative sentences:

ellipsis of the subject alone:

(12). (He) just thinks too much and smokes too much.

(13). (I) saw Susan and her friend in Alder weeks ago. (ibid.:158)

In example (12), the subject *he* is omitted and in (13) the subject *I* is omitted. Both of which can be recovered from the context in which the two sentences are uttered.

ellipsis of subject plus operator:

If the main verb 'be' is ellipsed, the elliptical sentence begins with what would be a subject complement in the full form:

(14) (It's) no wonder that people had begun to watch him rather uneasily. (ibid.)

The underlined words in example (14) represent the subject complement of the sentence which is still understood despite the omission of the anticipatory subject *it* and the verb *to be*.

b. Ellipsis in the interrogative sentences:

Ellipsis of the subject plus operator:

In conversational interrogative clauses the ellipsis of the subject and operator is normal. It usually occurs at the beginning of the interrogative clause (Pujiati, 2017:67)

(15). (Do you) know what I mean?

(16).(Have you)got a day off? (ibid.)

In example (15) , the operator *do* and the subject *you* are omitted ,while in (16) the operator *have* and the subject *you* are omitted .In both cases the ellipted words are recoverable from the context .

Ellipsis of the operator alone :

There are also elliptical yes – no questions in which , although the operator is omitted , the subject is pronounced ,e.g.,

(17).(Are) you serious?

(18). (Did)Your Granny Iris get here? (ibid.)

Example (17) shows the omission of the verb 'be' as main verb , while example (18) shows the omission of the auxiliary *do* which functions as an operator ,too.

3. Structural ellipsis

There is no clear dividing line between situational ellipsis and structural ellipsis .In both cases the ellipted word(s) can be identified on the basis of grammatical knowledge . However , structural ellipsis can be shown by citing the zero conjunction *that* , and ellipted preposition (Leech ,1994 :383) as in the following examples :

(19). I hope (that) the department will cooperate on this .

(20). The club meets (on) Monday evenings .(ibid.)

Further, structural ellipsis can also be seen in block language: in headlines , book titles notices, etc , where the omission extends to include determiners, pronouns , operators , and other closed class words(Quirk ,1973 : 205) as in the following example :

(21) (The) Changes of Middle –East peace(are) improving (ibid.). In example (21) , the determiner *the* and the verb *to be* are omitted.

1.4 Ellipsis in Arabic

Arab linguists also refer to ellipsis in different ways.The term *al-hathf* (deletion) is the most common term used by the traditional grammarians to denote the omission of an element of a sentence which could be a noun , verb, a clause or even one of the letters (sounds) constituting a word(Althunibat, 2016 :1). Another term that is used by the Arab grammarians to denote the omission is *Idmar* (concealment) However , some Arab grammarians assume that *Idmar* (concealment) is restricted to the absence of the

pronoun(ibid.) The phenomenon of ellipsis is one of the important linguistic phenomena in the Arabic language. It stamps the Arabic language in both written and spoken forms with two important characteristics that are said to be the underlying principles of leaving out linguistic items; they are the principle of the economy of language and the principle of *al-takhfif*/ or damping ,whereby a lot of information is supplied in few words (Ouissem ,2007 : 53).) Ellipsis is the economy and concision of language, in that there is the aesthetic feature of ellipsis which is associated with rhetoric. At the same time , ellipsis is unique because by leaving out an item the meaning will be clearer (Al-Jurjānī,2004:121).

Aziz (1996 :96) states that in Arabic ,like English , ellipsis may involve : the clause, the verb phrase and the noun phrase :

(a) Clause ellipsis:

In clausal ellipsis the whole clause may be ellipted in polarity questions ,with the exception of the polar marker , as in
(22)

هل تعرف هذا الرجل ؟ نعم / لا (اعرف هذا الرجل)

(Do you know this man? Yes / No (I know this man / I don't know this man)

However, the polar markers (نعم و لا) may be followed by the pro-form فعل which is a full verb in Arabic functioning as a substitute , the following example is illustrative :

(23) هل كافأت هذا الرجل ؟ . (ibid.)
نعم فعلت/كلا لم افعل (Did you reward this man? Yes , I did / No I didn't)

In (23) the verb فعل is basically different from the operator *do* because the verb فعل , as stated above , is a full verb showing a case of substitution, while the corresponding English verb *do* ushers an elliptical construction (ibid.: 97).

In information questions ,however , the whole clause, except the question word , may be ellipted ,as in:

(24) لن (ibid.:98)
احضر الحفلة . - لماذا ؟ (I

will not attend the party. --- Why ?) (25)

أوصل وفد الأمم المتحدة الى القاهرة . - متى وصل ؟ (ibid.)

(The UN delegation has arrived in Cairo.---

When did it arrive ?)

In both examples the whole clause is ellipted and what is left is only the question words متى and لماذا .

(b) Noun phrase ellipsis

Probably the main difference between English and Arabic in the field of ellipsis is that Arabic frequently uses epithets in place of the head in elliptical construction . This is mainly attributed to the fact that an Arabic adjective has most of the characteristics of a noun: namely gender , number , case and definiteness . Thus adjectives in Arabic are a productive source of ellipsis ; almost any adjective can replace a noun head (Elshourafa and Muhsen,2010 : 8). The following examples are illustrative :

ولد ابن خلدون في تونس ثم هاجر العلامة الى مصر (26)

(Ibin Khaldon was born in Tonisia and then the scholar migrated to Egypt)

Another example taken from Aziz (1996 : 101):

واقتربت الامرأتان من السيارة . وكانت الطويلة تحمل على كتفها طفلاً (27)

(The two women came near the car . The tall (one) was carrying a child on her shoulder)

In example (26), the adjective العلامة replaces the proper noun Ibin Khaldon in the second clause . In example(27) , the adjective الطويلة is also used instead of the noun head امرأتان . In both cases the adjective is used anaphorically or what is called " lexical cohesion."

Beside epithets , numeratives and demonstratives can also be used to compensate the ellipted noun head in the structure of the noun phrase (ibid.). Consider the following examples :

لا أريد تلك الساعة بل (ibid.) . (28)

أريد هذه .

(I don't want that watch . I want this)

كنت قد التقيت ثلاث من اصدقائي . ثم مضت اعوام طويلة . فرأيت الثلاثة (29)
القدامى في مقهى صغير بباريس

وقد اصبحوا تجاراً أثرياء . (ibid.).

(I met three of my old friends in a small café in Paris . Then many years passed before I met the three again . They had become rich merchants .)

In example (28), the demonstrative هذه substitutes the head noun الساعة and in example (29) the numerative الثلاثة replaces the head noun اصدقائي . As with the adjectives in the previous examples, the

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demonstrative هذه and the numerative الثلاثة in these examples acting as anaphors.

To make a structure more cohesive , Arabic frequently uses elliptical noun phrases especially in answers to questions and in negation to a preceding statement or situation by the use of the negative particle لا (Cantarino ,1974: 32 ,113,vol ,1) . Consider the following examples :

(30) أين امك يا فؤاد؟ قال

مريضة في البيت .

(Where is your mother , Fu'ad ? He answered , ill at home)

(31) لا شأن لي ولا لك معه

(I haven't anything to do with him, nor have you .)

In example (30) , the noun أمي (my mother) is omitted from the structure of the answer . In example (31) , the noun شأن is also elided from the structure of the statement, which could be لا شأن لي .ولا شأن لك معه.

(c) The verb phrase ellipsis

Since the Arabic verb phrase is basically simple and has no auxiliary element functioning as an operator ,as in English, , it is not possible in Arabic to keep part of the verb and omit the rest with the predication.The verb has to be repeated, or ellipated completely (Aziz,1996 :97). Consider the following examples :

(32) Will the governor attend the meeting tonight ? ---- Yes, he will.

هل سيحضر الاجتماع الحاكم هذه الليلة ؟
نعم سوف يحضر.

(33) هل سيحضر الاجتماع الحاكم هذه الليلة ؟
نعم (سيحضر) ، كلا (لن يحضر) (ibid.)

Rhetoricians , however , mention that in ellipting a word or words from a sentence, the speaker has to leave evidence that refers to the ellipated part. The evidence is either verbal or circumstantial (Hassan and Taqi , 2011: 644).

Verbal evidence takes place when some words have been ellipted , then the syntax and the pattern of the entire sentence make us infer what the missing words are .Consider the following example which is taken from the Glorious Qur'an verse 30 Chapter Al Nahl

"وقيل للذين اتقوا ما ذا انزل ربكم قالوا خيرا" (ibid.) .
(٣٤)

"To the righteous (when) it is said " What is it that your Lord has revealed ?" they say " All that is good. "

The assumed ellipted word in this example is the verb انزل (has revealed).That is ,the verse can be understood as " قالوا انزل خيرا ("they say : He has revealed all that is good).

Circumstantial evidence is achieved when the listener is aware from the context of the ellipted word. The following example which is also taken from Glorious Qur'an verse 69 of Chapter Hud illustrates this:

(35) قالوا "سلا ما".

They said : salam
(greetings and peace)

The assumed elided word is the verb "نسلم" (We greet) after the verb "said". That is , the verse can be understood as : قالو نسلم سلا ما (ibid.).

1.5 Translation Ambiguity

Translation , by definition , consists of changing from one state or form to another ,

to turn into one's own or another's language. Translation is basically a change of form.

When we speak of the form of a language, we are referring to the actual words, phrases clauses , sentences , paragraphs, etc., which are spoken or written (Larson,1998 :3).

Ambiguity is the property of words, terms, notations , signs , symbols , and concepts (with a particular context) as being undefined , indefinable , multi- defined, or without an obvious definition and thus having a misleading ,or unclear meaning (Al-Shercasy. 2010: 3) A word , phrase , sentence ,or a text is said to be ambiguous if it can be interpreted in more than one way. For example, *Perto knows a richer man than Trump*. It has two meanings : that *Perto knows a man who is richer than Trump* and that *Perto knows a man who is richer than any man Trump knows* (ibid.: 12,13). Ambiguity which does not arise from the grammatical analysis of a sentence , but is due solely to the alternative meanings of an individual lexical item, is referred to lexical ambiguity as in *I found the table **fascinating*** . The word

fascinating means either object of furniture or table of figures (Crystal , 2003 :22). Thus, the intended meaning of a single word can vary greatly depending on the linguistic context in which it appears. However, Psycholinguistic studies of monolingual language processing have demonstrated that, in most cases, both meanings of ambiguous words are accessed, and that the cognitive system overcomes this obstacle mostly by relying on linguistic context (Prior and Winter, 2009 :94). Moreover, the effect of translation ambiguity on translation production should not be surprising , because of the need to select only one option for production. That is, when multiple alternatives are available and the translator has to choose one from among several choices for the production, there could be a space for him to reach to an accurate translation(ibid.:172).

1.6 Text Analysis

Our analysis in this section will be restricted to ten texts which have been randomly chosen from Shakespeare's Macbeth. The model used in this analysis is that the assessment of the translation will depend on the recoverability of the elliptical structure. If the elliptical structure is recovered, the translation will be appropriate if not the translation will be inappropriate. The tables listed below show the ratios of success and failure .Where the sign(+) means that the elliptical structure is recovered and the sign (−) means that the elliptical structure is not recovered .

(ELS= Elliptical Structure) (Sub= Subject)

SL Text (1)

The witches:

Where hast thou been, sister?’’ p.8

-‘Killingswine.

Interpretation:

One of the witches asks her sister where she has been and her sister replies that she has been killing swine.

TL texts

أين كنت يا اختاه؟ أقتل الخنازير.

Sub1:

Sub2: أين كنت ، يا اختاه؟ أقتل خنازير .

Sub3: أين كنت ، يا اختاه؟ كنت اصطاد الخنازير.

Sub4: من اين جيتتي ، يا اختاه؟ كنت اقتل حيواناً مفترساً.

Sub5: أين كنت ، يا اختاه؟ أقتل خنازير.

Discussion

In SL text (1) , seemingly , subjects (1) and (2) and (5) rendered the text literally , the three subjects used the verb "اقتل" instead of اصطاد which is the intended meaning of the verb *kill* in this context . That is , they were literal and kept the ambiguity of the SL text . Subject (3) , however , could provide the appropriate translation of the text by using the verb اصطاد . In other words, subject (3) gave the exact explanation of the SL text .As for subject (4) , he failed in translating the text where he rendered it into: كنت اقتل حيواناً مفترساً which is very far from the intended meaning of the text .Our proposed translation is:

أين كنت يا أختاه؟ اصطاد الخنازير .

ELS Analysis

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	ELS
□	□	+	□	□	recoverability

SLtext (2)**Banquo to the witches**

You don't say anything to me. If you can look into the future and tell who will prosper and who won't, speak to me then. p.9

Interpretation:

Banquo is speaking to the witches and asking them to tell him about his future with Macbeth.

TL texts

١.أ ما معي فلا تتكلمن . أن يكن بمقدوركن ألتمعن في بذور المستقبل

Sub1:

فتعرفن ايها سينمو ، وايها لا ، حدثتني أذن .

٢.لن تكلمني . اذا قدرتن على معرفة بذور ما تؤول اليه الامور وأية بذرة

Sub2:

ستنمو ، واية بذرة لن تنمو ، فتكلمن معي أذن .

٣.أ ما أنا فلم تخاطبني، فان كنتن تعرفن ما يحجبه الغيب، وتعلمن البذر

Sub3:

الذي ينمو والبذر الذي يبقى عقيماً، فأجبن سؤال رجل لا يرجو منكن احساناً.

٤.إما انا فلم تخاطبني، فلئن كنتن تستشرفن ما يحجبه الغيب ، وتعلمن البذر

Sub4 : الذي ينمو من البذر الذي لاينمو ، فأجبن عن سؤال رجل

لايرجو منكن الاحسان ، ولا يخشى منكن الإساءة .

٥.غير انكن لم توجهنا الي حديثاً فأ ن كان بوسعكن استطلاع الغيب وبذور المستقبل

Sub5:

، ومعرفة أي البذور ستنمو وايها لن ينمو فلنتحدثن الى رجل لا يرجو منكن فضلاً ولا يخشى منكن عداوة .

Discussion :

In SL text (2) , only subject (1) kept the elliptical structure " *who won't*" by providing its Arabic literal equivalent وايها لا .However, the ellipted element can be recovered from the context of the sentence . That is , the elliptical structure can be interpreted as وايها لا ينمو Subjects (2) and (٤) and (5),however , could fill this gap by recovering the ellipted words . This is obvious in their renderings in which subject(2) rendered the elliptical structure into بذرة لن تنمو and subject (4) rendered it into البذر الذي لاينمو and (5)

which could serve as the ellipted words. However , subject (3) provided ambiguous translation when he rendered the elliptical structure into عقيماً والبذر الذي يبقى That is , he

was inappropriate in his translation. We choose the translation of subject (1) as our proposed translation .

ELS Analysis

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	ELS
+	+	¬	+	+	recoverability

SL text (3)

The third witch to Banquo :

The third witch pointed at him: 'Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none'. p.10

Interpretation:

The third witch is pointing at Banquo and telling him that
his sons will be kings but he will not be a king .

TLtexts

Sub3:	ستلد انت الملوك، وإن يفتك انت الملك .
Sub2:	ستنجب ملوكاً ، ولو انك لست منهم .
Sub3:	ستنجب ملوكاً ولن تكون أنت ملكاً
Sub4:	ستلد ملوكاً ولن تكون انت ملكاً
Sub5:	ستنجب ملوكاً دون ان تكون ملكاً

Discussion :

In SL text(3) , as the three renderings show , the five subjects attempted to explain the ambiguity represented by the pronoun *none* by providing different renderings. Subject (1)who translated the text into وان يفتك انت الملك provided an ambiguous translation .That is he failed to provide the appropriate translation.

Subject(2) who rendered the text into ولو انك لست منهم also failed in recovering the missing words of the elliptical *none* and thus kept the ambiguity of SL text. However , subjects (3), (4) and (5) succeeded in recovering the missing words of the elliptical *none* and provided appropriate translations :

ستنجب ملوكاً ولن تكون انت ملكاً. We choose the translation of subject (4) to be our proposed translation .

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	ELS
¬	¬	+	+	+	recoverability

SLtext (4)

King Duncan :

Has Cawdor been executed yet?' . 'Haven't those I sent to do it returned?'

'My Liege, they haven't,' said Malcolm. p.12

Interpretation:

The king asks his court whether the governor of Cawdor has been executed or not yet. Malcolm, his son, replies him that those whom were sent in that mission have not returned yet.

TLtexts

هل نفذ الاعدام بكودر؟ أم ان المكلفين با لأمر لم يعودوا بعد؟ مولا ي، لم يعودوا بعد.

Sub1:

هل نفذ الاعدام بكودر؟ الم يعد هؤلاء الذين اوكلت اليهم المهمة؟ سيدي، لم يعودوا بعد.

Sub2:

Sub3: .-----.

Sub4: .-----.

هل تم اعدام كودر؟ أعاد المكلفون بتنفيذ الحكم ؟ لم يعودوا بعد يا مولا ي .

Sub5:

Discussion :

In SL text(4) , obviously , subjects (1) and (2) and (5) successfully rendered the elliptical structure *they haven't* into Arabic by providing the rendering : لم يعودوا بعد which could be the equivalents of the omitted words of the SL text. That is , the three translators disambiguated the elliptical structure that resulted from the omission of the complement *returned* which is the lexical verb and which supposed to occur after the operator *have* (they haven't *returned*) . As for translator (3) and (4) , they didn't translate the text . Our suggested translation , though with slight modification , is :

هل نفذ حكم الاعداد يا مير كودر الم يعد المكافين بالامر ؟ لم يعد المكافين بعد ، يا مولاي

ELS Analysis .

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	ELS
+	+	¬	¬	+	recoverability

SLtext (5)

King Duncan to Macbeth and Banquo :

Welcome,' said Duncan. He turned to Banquo. 'Noble Banquo, you've deserved no less and no one should think you have. p.12

Interpretation:

The king is speaking to Macbeth and Banquo and telling Banquo that his position is the same as Macbeth's and no one should think that he has a less position.

TLtexts

Sub1: بانكو النبيل ، ليس استحقاقك بأقل، ولن يكون أقل ذيوياً.

Sub2: لا تقل استحقاقاً. ولن يكون استحقاقك أقل ذيوياً.

Sub3: أ ما انت ، ايها النبيل بانكو، ولست أقل قدرأ من مكبث.

Sub4: اما انت ايها الشريف بنكو- ولا تقل قدرأ عن مكبث .
وانت أي بنكو النبيل ، ما اراك أقل جدارة من مكبث ، وما ينبغي ان

Sub5:

يحسب الناس صنيعك دون صنيعه .

Discussion :

In SL text (5), as the renderings above show, subjects (1) and (2) who rendered the elliptical structure of *you have* into *لن يكون* and *لا تقل* their renderings are not understood .That is , they translated the text improperly, particularly the second part of the text which lacks the complement verb of the auxiliary *have* (have deserved). Although subjects (3),(4) and (5) gave different translations for the elliptical structure such as *ما اراك أقل جدارة من مكبث* , *ولا تقل قدرأ عن مكبث* , *ولست أقل قدرأ من مكبث*: they were appropriate in their translations. However, our suggested translation for this text is :

أ ما انت يا بانكو النبيل ، فلست أقل منزلة من مكبث .

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	ELS
⌊	⌊	+	+	+	recoverability

SLtext (6)

Macbeth to his wife

Has he asked for me ? Of course he has . p.17

Interpretation :

Macbeth enquires from his wife whether the king has asked about him during his absence . Lady Macbeth replies her husband that the king has asked about him.

TL texts

Sub1:

هل سأل عني؟ الا تعلم انه سأل ؟

Sub2:

هل سأل عتي ؟ الا تعلم انه سأل ؟

Sub3:

Sub4:

Sub5:

هل سأل عني ؟ الا تدري انه قد سأل ؟

Discussion :

In SLtext (6), subjects (1) , (2) and (5) only moved the ambiguity from the English text into Arabic .That is, their renderings are still ambiguous and not understood ,for they did not take into consideration the context of the text to explain to whom , for example , the pronoun *he* in the question *has he asked for me* ? refers to . Further , they changed the reply of Lady Macbeth in the English text(*of course he has*) from statement into question in Arabic : ألا تعلم انه سأل ؟ . In other words , the three subjects provided inappropriate translations. As for subjects (3)and (4) they did not translate the English text .We suggest the following translation :

هل سأل عني الملك ؟ بالطبع سأل عنك .

ELS Analysi

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	ELS
⌊	⌊	⌊	⌊	⌊	recoverability

SLtext (7)**Lennox to Macbeth**

‘Is the King leaving today?’ ‘He is. Or so he intends.’ p. 23

Interpretation:

Lennox asks Macbeth whether the king will be leaving today and Macbeth replies yes he will or he intends to leave .

TL texts

Sub1: أيرحل الملك اليوم ؟ أجل لقد عين ذلك .

Sub2: هل سيغادر الملك اليوم ؟ أجل لقد اتخذ الترتيبات لذلك .

Sub3: أسيغادر الملك اليوم ؟ نعم او هذا ما ينوي فعله .

Sub4: أيسافر الملك اليوم ؟ هذا ما نواه بالأمس .

Sub5: ايعتزم الملك الرحيل اليوم ؟ نعم كان هذا قراره .

Discussion:

In SL text (7), although the five subjects rendered the first part of the text , which is a question , properly and provided different proper translations أيرحل الملك اليوم ؟ هل سيغادر الملك اليوم ؟ ايعتزم الملك الرحيل اليوم ؟ : subjects (1),(2),(4)and (5) were inaccurate in their translations of the elliptical structure of the text (He is. Or so he intends) . The four subjects had to recover the missing complement of the verb *to be* and that of the verb *intend*, which is the same lexical verb *leaving* available in the structure of the question in the SL and thus failed to provide its proper Arabic equivalent . Besides, the four subjects had to be aware of the tense of the SL text .Where the four subjects used the past tense instead of the present which is the tense of the text . Unfortunately, none of these notes was taken into consideration by the four subjects and consequently lead to the failure in rendering the elliptical structure of the text . As for subject (3), he translated the text properly . Our proposed translation is :

هل سيغادر الملك اليوم ؟ أجل هذا ما ينوي فعله .

ELS Analysis

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	ELS
⌋	⌋	+	⌋	⌋	recoverability

Lady Macbeth to the king Duncan

Your servants ever , have theirs, themselves, and what is theirs ,in compt. To make their audit at your highness , pleasure, still to return your own. P41

Interpretation :

Lady Macbeth is talking to king Duncan telling him that they will remain his servants forever and keep themselves accountable and grateful to him and they will be ready for everything he asks.

TLtexts

Sub1: خدمكم دائماً، هم وما يملكون وسيكشفون حسابهم متى شئتم
كل خدمة منا ولو اديناها في كل جزء منها مرتين، ثم مرتين اُخريين تبقى امراً بسيطاً.

Sub2:

لو جعلنا خدمتنا لجلالتكم اضعافاً مضاعفة لكانت ادنى شيء امام هذا الشرف العظيم الذي منحتموه لنا.

Sub3: لو كانت خدمتنا لجلالتكم اضعافاً مضاعفة لكانت ادنى شيء بجانب الشرف العظيم الذي حملتمونا اياه.

Sub4: خدمك ياسيدي وخدم خدمك ، وكل ما يملكون، ولا هدف لهم غير مرضاتك.

Sub5:

Discussion :

In SL text (8), seemingly the elliptical structures were behind the ambiguity in the translations given by the five subjects. Although the subjects provided different translations , only subject (1) could recover the missing words of the elliptical structures properly. خدمكم دائماً هم وما يملكون. The rest of the subjects ,as their translations show, overlooked the elliptical structures and translated the text communicatively. However, their translations appear unclear and redundant ,particularly that of subject (5) :

لو (4) and (3) subjects and that of خدمك ياسيدي وخدم خدمك وكل ما يملكون. كانت(لوجعلنا) خدمتنا لجلالتكم اضعافاً مضاعفة.

As for subject (2) , he was utterly ambiguous in his translation . Our suggested translation is:

سنبقى خدمكم دوماً نحن وما نملك ، وكل ما نقدمه لا يساوي شيئاً امام ما منحتموه لنا من شرف.

ELS Analysis

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	ELS
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+	⌊	⌊	⌊	⌊	recoverability
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SLtext(9)**Lady Macbeth**

He that's coming must be provided for; and you shall put this night's great business into my despatch.P37

Interpretation :

Lady Macbeth is talking to her husband about the king who is coming to night, and telling him that they should prepare for the murder which will be committed tonight and she asks him to leave the great matters of that night to her .

TLtexts

Sub1: لنستقبل ضيفنا باجلال ، و اترك لي ما ينبغي فعله في هذه الليلة .

Sub2: لنلق ضيفنا بمنتهى الاجلال، ودع لي ما ينبغي فعله في هذه الليلة .
صاحبنا قادم يجب ان يُهيأ له، و عليك ان تضع امر هذه الليلة العظيم في امرتي .

Sub3: فذلك الذي سيأتي يجب ان نهياً له ، وستترك لي تدبير الفعلة العظيمة هذه الليلة .

Sub4:

Sub5: هذا الوافد الينا يجب ان نستعد لاستقباله. و عليك ان تترك في يدي تنظيم الامور العظيمة التي ستجري هذه الليلة.

Discussion :

In SL text (9), as the underlined renderings exhibit, subjects (1),(2) and(5) failed to recover the exact missing words of the elliptical structure and hence provided inappropriate translation.This may be due either to the subjects' unawareness of the text or to the ambiguity which may arise from the elliptical structure. Subjects (3) and (4),however, were proper in their translation of the text, i.e., they provided accurate translations of the elliptical structure when they rendered it into . يجب ان نُهيأ له , يجب ان يُهيأ له .

Therefore, we choose translation (4) to be our proposed one .

ELS Analysis

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	ELS
⌊	⌊	+	+	⌊	recoverability

SLtexts (10)**Macbeth to Banquo**

If you shall cleave to my consent, when it is, it shall make honour for you.P.53

Interpretation

Macbeth is speaking to Banquo and telling him that he would be honoured if he kept on his side.

TLtexts

Sub1: أن انت التزمت بالاتفاق معي، في حينه، اصابك شرف كبير.

فاذا توافقت مرامي نَظَرِينَا عند ما تسبح الفرصة، كان لك من ذلك جاه وتشريف.

Sub2:

Sub3: لو انضممت الى جانبي ، حينما يحين الوقت، لثلت شرفاً عظيماً.

Sub4: فان كنت توافقتني، فسيكون لك جاه وتشريف ومجد رفيع.

Sub5: فان انت ناصررتني عندئذ فسأمدد امامك طريق المجد والشرف .

Discussion :

In SL text (10), the parenthetical elliptical clause *when it is* is still ambiguous even in the Arabic texts.

That is , none of the five subjects could disambiguate or explain exactly what did that elliptical structure

lack? This may be due to fact that when Macbeth was talking to Banquo his mind was busy with the prophesies of the witchs who prophesied that he would be a king. Therefore , all the renderings given the subjects such as في حينه ، عندما تسبح الفرصة ، حينما يحين الوقت ، عندئذ، were ambiguous and not clear . Our proposed translations are:

فأن ناصررتني عندما اصبح ملكاً فستتال الكثير.
أ ن وافقتني وبقيت الى جانبي حتى النهاية فسوف يكون لك مجداً عظيماً.

ELS Analysis

Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	ELS
⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	recoverability

1.7 Conclusions :

Our analysis of the ten texts revealed that ellipsis was one of the main causes behind translation ambiguity and the linguistic context was, mostly, of no use in translating the SL texts .Although our subjects adopted the two translation approaches in their renderings in an attempt to disambiguate the texts : the semantic and the communicative translation, both of which were to some extent

unable to convey the intended meaning . This may be attributed to the ambiguity which arises from the elliptical structures and the difficulty in recovering the ellipted words. Where the ratio of failure amounted to 3.2% and the success never exceeded 1.7% in the rendering of the texts .The analysis also revealed that the failure in the interpretation of the elliptical structures might result from different factors other than the omission of one certain element. For example, in SL texts : 5,6,7, the omission of the verb caused the failure in the translation,while in SL texts : 8, 9, 10 and other texts the fuzzy elliptical structures and the unawareness of the subjects with the text were behind the failure of the subjects in translating the texts.Whatever an elliptical structure is, it is ambiguous if it cannot be easily disambiguated or explained . Therefore , we recommend translators (students or teachers) to be careful in dealing with the elliptical structures , especially the fuzzy ones, for such structures could be a slippery area for a translator.

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اسباب الغموض في الترجمة الحذفُ أُنموذجًا

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مستخلص

الحذف هو عملية ترك، أو اسقاط كلمات، أو الفاظ من النص ، او انه عملية ترك احد أجزاء الكلام او الالفاظ او اغفالها.

وتهدف هذه الدراسة الى تسليط الضوء على الغموض في المعنى الذي ينتج عن حذف لغوي . كما تهدف الى التحري عن اسباب الاخفاقات عند ترجمة بعض التراكيب التي حذفت بعض اجزائها . وقد افترضت الدراسة أن الغموض في المعنى غالباً ما ينتج عن وجود تراكيب لغوية فيها حذف ، وأن السياق اللغوي قد لا يكون دائماً الملاذ الأخير في حل مشكلة الغموض . واختيرت بطريقة عشوائية عشرة عينات مترجمة من مسرحية ماكبث للكاتب الانكليزي وليام شكسبير ترجمها خمسة من المترجمين المعروفين وهم: جبرا ابراهيم جبرا و صلاح نيازي و حسين احمد امين و خليل مطران و دار الكتب العلمية في بيروت . وقد كشفت التحليلات التي اجريت على هذه العينات أن الحذف كان العامل الاساسي وراء الاخفاق في عملية الترجمة . كما كشفت التحليلات ايضاً، ان التراكيب اللغوية التي يكون فيها عنصراً محذوفاً والتراكيب غير الواضحة الى جانب عوامل اخرى : مثل عدم فهم النص كلها كانت وراء اخفاقات المترجمين خلال عملية الترجمة . لذلك، توصي الدراسة أن يكون المترجمون (سواء من الطلبة او التدريسيون) على وعي وادراك حيثما وجدت أيّ من التراكيب اللغوية التي يكون فيها حذف بغية الوصول الى ترجمة مناسبة ودقيقة.