

تركيب الإيجاز كتمثيل لظاهرة الغرابة النصية بالإشارة إلى الترجمة من اللغة الإنكليزية إلى اللغة العربية

## Zeugmatic Construction as a Configuration of Anomaly with Reference to English-Arabic Translation

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### الملخص:

تتناول الورقة البحثية الحالية ظاهرة الإيجاز إذ أنها تعد أداة فعالة في غرابة النص، و مما تجدر الإشارة إليه أن الغرابة عادة يتعمدها كثير من الكتاب ليشدوا انتباه القارئ أكثر وأكثر وليقرأ النص بإمعان نظر لتتوارد عليه معاني بلاغية فريدة لا تخطر إلا ببال القراء المحترفين وهنا على المترجم كونه قارنا نشطا أن يغوص في النص ليقف على كل معنى محتمل ثم يترجمه ترجمة مناسبة، وللإيجاز أنواع مختلفة فمنه عدم حذف الفاعل في الجملة الأولى وحذفه من الجملة الأخرى وكذا الحال بالنسبة للفعل فربما لا يُحذف من الجملة الأولى ويتم حذفه في الجمل الأخرى وهكذا الحال بالنسبة لحرف الجر وأقسام الكلام الأخرى، والمشكلة هنا وعلى سبيل المثال عندما يُحذف الفعل من الجملة الثانية أو الثالثة ليس بالضرورة أن نُقدر نفس فعل الجملة الأولى للجمليتين لأن ذلك يضعف الأسلوب وأحيانا يكتنف النص بأكمله غموض وعدم تماسك، لذلك فالورقة البحثية الحالية تهدف إلى جعل المترجم قادرا أن يقدر الأفعال المناسبة للجملة المحذوف فعلها حتى وإن كانت الأفعال مختلفة عن الفعل الأول، وتفترض الدراسة أن المحذوف إن كان اسما أو فعلا أو حرفا أو غير ذلك فعادة لا يمكن أن يقدر بنفس الاسم أو الفعل أو الحرف أو غير ذلك، وقد أثبتت الدراسة صحة هذه الفرضيات من خلال تحليل العينات قيد البحث والدراسة.

الكلمات الدالة: إيجاز نصي، أحادي المعنى، ترجمة، غرابة، تحليل

**Abstract:**

The present paper scrutinizes the zeugmatic construction as an effective tool to show how the anomaly is experienced in texts. It is also to be noted that the anomaly is usually utilized intentionally by many writers to attract the reader's attention more and more to read the text carefully. In such a case, the reader will come across unique and anomalous meanings which only professional readers can figure them out. Here the translator must, as an active reader, dig deep to detect any possible meaning to render appropriately. Zeugma can be categorized variously such as zeugma of noun, verb and the like. The problem encountered is, for instance, when the verb from the second or third clause is elided, it is not necessary to take the same meaning of the verb of the first clause since this will distort the effectiveness of the intended style in general and sometimes the text becomes vague thoroughly and in-cohesion. So, the present paper aims at enabling the translator to find out the appropriate items throughout the process of translation. The paper hypothesizes that the elided item whether a noun, a verb, etc. in the zeugmatic construction usually cannot take the same meaning of the non-elided item in the non-zeugmatic clause. In order to test the validity of the above-mentioned hypothesis, fourteen texts containing zeugmatic constructions will be analyzed and the suggested translations of those texts will be given.

**Keywords:** *Zeugma, Monosemy, Translation, Anomaly, Analysis*

**Introduction**

It goes undeniable that zeugma in English is not the same as that of Arabic. As a result, it is not straightforward to judge the Arabic zeugmatic constructions by the norms of the English ones when one intends to render any

text from English into Arabic and vice versa. Furthermore, the text may include more than one zeugmatic construction. If the same non-elided verb is employed in the place of the elided verb, most probably the zeugmatic construction becomes awkward and odd. Then translators might produce anomalous translations, or sometimes inaccurate ones. Since zeugma plays an active part in the economy of the speech, translators must not neglect this issue during the process of translation. In other words, the economy in the source text is advised to be reflected in the target language as possible as the translators can.

### 1. The Concept of Zeugma

Zeugma includes several similar rhetorical devices, all involving a grammatically correct linkage (or yoking together) of two or more parts of speech by another part of speech. Thus, examples of zeugmatic usage would include one subject with two (or more) verbs, a verb with two (or more) direct objects, two (or more) subjects with one verb, and so forth. The main benefit of the linkage is that it shows relationships between ideas and actions clearly.

"A clash or incompatibility of senses for a single word in sentences containing a co-ordinate structure, like those in (1), is often referred to using the Greek term "zeugma".

- (1) a. Mary and her visa expired on the same day.  
b. He carried a strobe light and the responsibility for the lives of his.  
c. On his fishing trip, he caught three trout and a cold." (Kroeger, 2018:85).

A special kind of zeugma in which the yoking term agrees grammatically with only one of the terms to which it is applied, or refers to each in a different sense (Baldick, 2001:278).

## **2. Anomaly as a Stylistic Device**

A term from Greek meaning 'without name' or 'without control' which covers all kinds of semantic incompatibility or contradiction. It depends by contrast on the principle of the normal conceptual classification of the features of the world around us. However, anomaly is tolerated, even approved, in many situations, and it is often difficult to distinguish it from certain FIGURES OF SPEECH, such as METAPHOR, or IDIOMS. 'She has green ears', for instance, might make better sense on Mars; whereas 'She has green fingers' is perfectly acceptable in a garden (Wales, 2014:22).

## **3.Hypotaxis**

Related to conjunction, hypotaxis is a remarkably linguistic phenomenon. All in all, hypotaxis refers to the placement of related clauses, constructions, etc. in a series using connecting words such as: and, then, etc. Consider the following illustrative example:

Not to know, and yet to affect knowledge is a vice. (Ping, 2019:145-7).

## **4.Polysemy and Zeugma**

First of all, consider the polysemous word "expire", which means "die" in (2) and "become invalid" in (3):

(2) Tom expired.

(3) Tom's student card expired.

The conjunction reduction of (2) and (3) sounds anomalous:

(4) Tom and his student card expired.

Sentence (4) is an example of what is known as "zeugma": it is not outright nonsensical, but it sounds anomalous because it is difficult to come up with a straightforward interpretation. There is no single property of "being expired" which can be attributed to both Tom and his student card. (Liu,2020:6).

### 5. Zeugma and Substitution

If co-ordination is combined with substitution and the intention of the speaker involves both senses (or applications), then there arises an effect of zeugma in homonymy and polysemy, but not in monosemy:

**Homonymy:** \*Ray went to the bank [financial institution] and so did Gerry [side of the river].

**Polysemy:** \*Ray attacked him [verbally] and so did Gerry [physically].

**Monosemy:** Ray went to see his aunt [on his mother's side] and so did Gerry [on his father's side].

"For homonymy and polysemy, the semantic effects of the grammar are a result of the fact that there are two distinct senses, whereas for monosemy, the semantic effect is a consequence of the fact that there is only one sense, whose varied application in practice has not become part of the code" (Steen, 2007:152-2).

### 6. Literal and Communicative Translation

Basically, communicative translation emphasizes the transfer of messages. This method is concerned with the reader or listener who does not expect any

difficulties and obscurity in the translation text. This method also pays attention to the effectiveness of the translation language. In addition, each translator has his own style in translating a work. The style he uses will be very closely related to the method of translation he uses and depends on the purpose of the translation he has (Hartono, 2018:20).

As for literal translation, there is a notion that literal translation is mindless, like Google Translate- that the literal translator simply replaces each source-textual word in sequence with its "obvious" target-textual equivalent without thinking, mechanically- is widely at odds with the actual history of literal translation (Robinson, 2022:23).

## 7. Proposed Translations of Steen's Instances

Here are some instances which are set by Steen to crystalize zeugma by means of sense relations such as homonymy, polysemy and monosemy. To illustrate zeugmatic construction more and more, literal and communicative translations of these sense relations are proposed as follows:

### Instance (1)

Ray went to the bank and so did Gerry.

Literal Translation: ري ذهب إلى ضفة النهر وكذلك كري / ري ذهب إلى المصرف وكذلك كري

Homonymy: \*Ray went to the bank [financial institution] and so did Gerry [side of the river].

Communicative Translation: ري ذهب إلى المصرف بينما كري ذهب إلى ضفة النهر

### Instance (2)

Ray attacked him and so did Gerry.

Literal Translation: ري هاجمه وكذلك كري.

Polysemy: \*Ray attacked him [verbally] and so did Gerry [physically].

Communicative Translation: ري هاجمه قولاً بينما كري هاجمه فعلاً.

### Instance (3)

Ray went to see his aunt and so did Gerry.

Literal translation: ري ذهب ليري عمته وذلك كري.

Monosemy: Ray went to see his aunt [on his mother's side] and so did Gerry [on his father's side].

Communicative Translation: ري ذهب ليري خالته بينما كري ذهب ليري عمته.

## 8.Data Collection

In the present paper, since zeugma is one of the most effective devices, ten texts have been collected randomly from "A Handbook of Rhetorical Devices by Robert A. Harris (2023). These texts have been analyzed rhetorically. First of all, literal translation for each text is given. Then, communicative translation is proposed to tell the difference between them. Finally, the present paper adopts the communicative translation because it mitigates the loss of translation as much as possible.

### SL Text (1)

**Pride oppresses humility; hatred love; cruelty compassion.**

#### Text Analysis

In one form (prozeugma), the yoking word "oppresses" precedes the words yoked. For example, you could have a verb stated in the first clause understood in the following clauses. It is evident that the above-mentioned text includes three clauses. The first one "Pride oppresses humility" represents the usual pattern of the English clause since it consists of subject "Pride", verb "oppresses" and object "humility". The anomaly lies in interpreting the verbs in the second and third clauses. Here, it is not necessary to imagine that the implicit verbs may be the same as the first one "oppresses".

#### Literal Translation

الكبرياء يغلب التواضع والكره يغلب الحب والقسوة تغلب العاطفة.

#### Communicative Translation

الكبرياء عادة يغلبُ التواضع والكره يهزم الحب والقسوة تقضي على العاطفة.

### SL Text (2)

**Fred excelled at sports; Harvey at eating; Tom with girls.**

#### Text Analysis

It is crystal clear that the second and third clauses are at odds with the first clause because they both lack the main verb. In such a case, it is not as easy as some believe. If the first clause implies the main verb "excelled", it is not

necessary to be utilized in the other clauses. If one tries to utilize the same verb "excelled", it may not make complete sense. As a result, one must try to find out appropriate verbs to be activated in the second and third clauses.

### **Literal Translation**

كان فريد ممتازاً في الألعاب الرياضية وهارفي في الأكل وتوم في الفتيات.

### **Communicative Translation**

كان فريد بارعا في الألعاب الرياضية وهارفي مولعاً بالأكل و توم مغرمًا بالفتيات.

### **SL Text (3)**

Alexander conquered the world; I; Minneapolis.

### **Text Analysis**

As usual, the yoking word, i.e. the verb "conquered" precedes the word yoked, i.e. the verb which must be interpreted to be suitable with the whole text. Here, it is not enough to find out an appropriate verb but it is essential to seek a cohesive device such as "whereas", "while" etc. to link the two clauses properly. The deep structure of the whole text could be turned into the following "Alexander conquered whereas I conquered Minneapolis".

### **Literal Translation**

غزا الكسندر العالم وأنا مينابولس.

### **Communicative Translation**

غزا الكسندر العالم بينما أنا غزوتُ مينابولس.

### **Diazeugma**

A more important version of this form (with its own name, diazeugma) is the single subject with multiple verbs:

### **SL Text (4)**

Mr. Glowry held his memory in high honour, and made a punchbowl of his skull.

### **Text Analysis**

Syntactically speaking, it is acceptable to connect more than one clause with only single subject, the verbs "held" and "made" are connected with the subject



"Mr. Glowry". In fact, all of this does not cause any problem. The key point here is how to achieve coherence between these clauses. Formally, when one reads the text for the first time, s/he may feel there is a sort of anomaly within the whole text.

### **Literal Translation**

احتفظ السيد كلوري بذاكرته بكل شرف وصنع طاسة شرب من جمجمته.

### **Communicative Translation**

احتفظ السيد كلوري بذاكرته بكل شرف وأعدَّ لهم أواني يشربون بها ما يريدون.

### **SL Text (5)**

This terrace took in an oblique view of the open sea, and fronted a long track of level sea.

### **Text Analysis**

In English, the subject can be employed for the same verbs even the distance between them is very remote as is the case with the subject "terrace" and the verbs "took" and "fronted". In contrast, Arabic prefers repeating the same subject, even the subject pronoun, before each verb to achieve cohesion and avoid vagueness.

### **Literal Translation**

أخذ هذا المدرج منظرا مائلا في البحر المفتوح وقَدَّم مسارا طويلا لمستوى البحر.

### **Communicative Translation**

لهذا المدرج منظر مائل عن البحر المفتوح و يتقدمه مسار طويل لمستوى البحر.

### **SL Text (6)**

Fluffy rolled on her back, raised her paws, and meowed to be petted.

### **Text Analysis**

For the sake of economy, in English, it is far better for the writer to elide as much as it is possible if and only if there is no any confusion in the stretch of communication. In the text above, the writer deliberately utilizes zeugmatic constructions so as to activate the stylistic aspects and to avoid any sort of repetition of the subject whether it is as a noun or pronoun.

### **Literal Translation**

فلفي دَوَّرت ظهرها ورفعت مخالبها وماءت لتكون أليفة.

### **Communicative Translation**

جعلت فلفي ظهرها دائرياً وأنشبت مخالبها وماءت لتكون أليفة.

### **SL Text (7)**

He grabbed his hat from the crack in the closet, his gloves from the table near the door, and his car keys from the punchbowl.

### Text Analysis

It is quite obvious that the second clause "his gloves ..." and the third one, "and his car keys..." are linked prozeugmatically by just one verb, i.e. "grabbed". If the translator utilizes the same verb "grabbed" repeatedly during the process of translation, the stylistic texture will be very weak and boring. At the same time, the reader will feel that there is a sort of oddity in the text. To illustrate more and more, consider the following literal translation:

### Literal Translation

سحب قبعته من فتحة في خزانة وقفازاته من منضدة قرب الباب ومفاتيحه من طاسة الشرب.

### Communicative Translation

سحب قبعته من فتحة صغيرة في خزانة الملابس وأخذ قفازاته من منضدة قرب الباب واستل مفاتيحه من طاسة الشرب.

### SL Text (8)

He smashed the clock into bits and his fist through the wall.

### Text Analysis

There is no semantic clash between the verb "smash" and the object "the clock", but a sort of oddity can be signaled between the verb "smash" and the object "his fist". Consequently, one must look for an appropriate verb to be used before the object "his fist". In other words, the collocative meaning cannot be figured out between the verb "smash" and the object "his fist".

### Literal Translation

هشَّم الساعة إلى قطع وقبضته من خلال الحائط.

### Communicative Translation

هشَّم الساعة إلى قطعٍ صغيرةٍ وكسر قبضته بضربها على الحائط.

### SL Text (9)

Mr. Glowry was horror-struck by the sight of a round, ruddy face, and a pair of laughing eyes.

### Text Analysis

The preposition "by" is only utilized before the first object "the sight of a round, ruddy face", but it is dropped before the second object "a pair of laughing eyes".

### Literal Translation

خاف السيد كلوري من منظر وجه دائري موحد وزوج عيون ضاحكة.

### Communicative Translation

خاف السيد كلوري خوفا شديدا من رؤية وجه دائري موحد ومن عينيْن ضاحكتين.

### SL Text (10)

He grabbed his hat from the rack by the stairs and a kiss from his little son.

### Text Analysis

It is clear that the verb "grabbed" can yield a collocative meaning with the object "his hat" whereas it clashes semantically with the object "a kiss". From time to time, you may tend to create a linkage in which the verb should be grasped in a slightly different sense. Consequently, the equivalent verb must be looked for carefully in order to remove any vagueness from the zeugmatic construction. If the translator can render the anomaly as it is from the source text into the target one, a high level of faithfulness will be maintained.

### Literal Translation

سحب قبعته من رف قرب المصعد وقبلة من ابنه الصغير.

### Communicative Translation

سحب قبعته من رف إزاء المصعد وقَبَّلَ ابنه الصغير قبلة.

### SL Text (11)

Eggs and oaths are soon broken.

### Text Analysis

In English, the lexical items "eggs" and "oaths" can normally collocate with the lexical item "break". The problem lies, in Arabic, in the way the item "oaths" clashes with the item "break". So, in Arabic, one must look for better alternative so as to convey the stylistic and anomalous sense to the target language.

### **Literal Translation**

تكسرت البيضات ويمينه حالاً.

### **Communicative Translation**

حالاً تكسرت البيضات وحنث بيمينه.

### **SL Text (12)**

The storm sank my boat and my dreams.

### **Text Analysis**

It quite evident that the anomaly is represented in the strange collocation between the lexical item "sank" and "my dreams". In such a case, the writer violates the maxim of relation to attract the reader's attention and to achieve the stylistic meaning in the text. In reality, the main task of the translator is to maintain such stylistic meaning and to avoid the loss of the anomalous flavour in the target text.

### **Literal Translation**

أغرقت العاصفة قاربي وأحلامي.

### **Communicative Translation**

أغرقت العاصفة قاربي وحطمت أحلامي.

### **SL Text (13)**

He took his hat and his vacation.

### **Text Analysis**

In the text above, it seems that the literal translation can fit the general sense of the text, but it cannot come up with the intended stylistic sense. Consequently, it must bear in mind that if the translator is not fully aware of the phenomenon of zeugma, s/he will definitely be incapable of rendering the intended meaning of the zeugmatic construction.

### **Literal Translation**

أخذ قبعته وإجازته.

## **Communicative Translation**

أخذ قبعته وطلب إجازة.

### **SL Text (14)**

My teeth and ambitions were bared.

### **Text Analysis**

It is of crucial significance to maintain, in Arabic, cohesive tie between the lexical item "ambitions" and "bared" which both represent the zeugmatic construction. Moreover, the selectional restrictions which the writer prefers cannot be maintained in the target text.

## **Literal Translation**

أسناني تجردت و طموحاتي.

## **Communicative Translation**

سقطت أسناني و تلاشت طموحاتي.

The utility of zeugmatic devices lies partly in their economy (for they save repetition of subjects or verbs or other words), and partly in the connections they create between thoughts. The more connections between ideas you can make in an essay, whether those connections are simple transitional devices or more elaborate rhetorical ones, the fewer your reader will have to guess at, and therefore the clearer your points will be (Harris,2008: 16).

## **9. Conclusions**

The present paper has come up with the following conclusions:

1. Translators can make wide use of zeugma to save more time and space, especially in audiovisual translation.

2. Zeugmatic construction plays an active part in broadening the meaning of the text.
3. In Arabic, zeugma is widely produced, even though it is treated from translation perspective.
4. Zeugma is an effective and persuasive tool to attract the attention of the audience.
5. Sometimes, Arabic does not prefer zeugmatic construction in the complex sentence.
6. The study has also concluded that the elided item whether a noun, a verb, etc. in the zeugmatic construction usually cannot take the same meaning of the non-elided item in the non-zeugmatic clause. This has verified the hypothesis of the study by means of the analysis of the samples under investigation.

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