

## Translation Strategies of Bassam Yousef's Interview with Pierce Morgan

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### **ABSTRACT**

Translation strategies were studied a lot by many researchers and theorists. Some of those theorists agree that translation strategies can be utilized by translators when they face a problem in order to avoid literal translation. Consequently, various researchers have tried to describe those translation strategies from their own point of views. Some theories are explained in this study. The basic aim of this study was to show the translation strategies and those translation strategies of Bassam Yousef's interview with Pierce Morgan.

Many translation strategies can be used when translators encounter a translation problem while translating by professional translators. There is a taxonomy for those translation theories which was created by Baker (1992) in order to assist translators if they face any kind of problems while translating.

**Key Words :** Translation, theoretical research, Interview of Bassam Yousef and Morgan, problems of translation, the taxonomy of Baker, translation strategies.

استراتيجيات ترجمة مقابلة باسم يوسف مع بيرس مورغان

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## المخلص

وقد تمت دراسة استراتيجيات الترجمة كثيراً من قبل العديد من الباحثين والمنظرين. ويتفق بعض هؤلاء المنظرين على أنه يمكن للمترجمين استخدام استراتيجيات الترجمة عندما يواجهون مشكلة لتجنب الترجمة الحرفية. وبالتالي، حاول العديد من الباحثين وصف استراتيجيات الترجمة تلك من وجهة نظرهم الخاصة. تم شرح بعض النظريات في هذه الدراسة. كان الهدف الأساسي لهذه الدراسة هو إظهار استراتيجيات الترجمة واستراتيجيات الترجمة تلك في مقابلة بسام يوسف مع بيرس مورغان.

يمكن استخدام العديد من استراتيجيات الترجمة عندما يواجه المترجمون مشكلة في الترجمة أثناء الترجمة بواسطة مترجمين محترفين. هناك تصنيف لنظريات الترجمة تلك أنشأه بيكر (١٩٩٢) لمساعدة المترجمين إذا واجهوا أي نوع من المشاكل أثناء الترجمة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الترجمة، البحث النظري، مقابلة بسام يوسف ومرجان، مشاكل الترجمة، تصنيف بيكر، استراتيجيات الترجمة.

## Introduction

This study includes four main sections:

1. Introduction.
2. Review of literature.
3. Conclusions.
4. References

### Review of Literature

Many issues are dealt with in this chapter containing the following:

- 1) The definition of translation.
- 2) The strategies of Translation including their types, models and characteristics.
- 3) The goal and gaps of the this study.

### Theoretical background

#### Translation

As for the definition, it is such a complex mission, by which the essence of the source text can be transferred to the target language. There is another definition for Translation could also be providing the meaning and form in the target language using the means of the source language.

**The definition of general translation**

Translation can be explained according to many theorists and researchers. One of them is Bensoussan (1990) who says that translation is similar to the process of reading. As for Picken (1989), general translation is a method of taking messages whether written or oral from one language to another one. Larson (1984) declares that generally in translation, the similar meaning that was clear enough by the source language speakers should maintain the dynamics of the source language. There is also Catford (1965, as cited in Jiraphatralikhit et al. 2005) who shows translation as the putting of a text in source language to be replaced by its equivalent text in the language. Newmark (1981:7) refers to the idea that translation is a skill which tries to exchange a sentence in the written form in a certain language by its equivalent in another one. For him, the process of translation is considered a skill or art. Translation as a skill contains the appropriate use of language. As an art, translation shows the differences between good writing from the bad one.

It can be said that translation is a process of taking a decision when there is a problem. It is complex task because the translator faces several problems that need deep understanding of the problem to find out the solution.

**What is a strategy?**

A translation strategy indicates certain procedures that arrange the process of translation. These procedures are used carefully to study the translation problems that translators encounter while shifting translating. Some of the translation problems could be cultural, contextual or even linguistic.

"Translation Strategies" is an expression utilized by several researchers with some clear differences in the meaning and the points of view. Translation strategies give such a good tool to make the suitable content

to what really shows the vision you prefer. Any professional translator would not continue without using some of these translation strategies.

**"Strategy" is a term that can be defined as:**

–An arrangement of many actions created to attain a particular aim (Wikipedia Committee, n. d).

A strategy is an arranged and deliberate procedure achieved with certain steps related to observing and modifying (Curriculum Learning Literate–Futures Glossary, n. d).

In general, when a translator faces a problem while translation, s/he utilizes a strategy. For Bergen (n. d.), translation strategies could be not clear enough. When beginners translate literally using a dictionary, they may never comprehend that a problem is not solved. Therefore, to find the solution is the main function of these strategies, the question could be what is a translation problem?

### **Translation problems**

For Dr. Miremadi (1991), we can subdivide translation problems into many types which are the lexical problems and the syntactic ones.

### **Lexical problems**

For Miremadi, words usually refer to ideas and objects so that we can substitute a word in one language with an equivalent in another language.

According to him, there are many subcategories of those lexical problems:

Denotative or Straight meaning

Words of the source language text can be related to the words of the target language (e.g. sister, brother).

Lexical meaning

It indicates the words that are equivalent. The translator should know the goal for those words to avoid failing in present the message of the author.

## The Expressions of Metaphors

Here lies the concept of problems of translation such as idioms and others.

For translating idiomatic expressions:

Broeik (1981) quoted by Dr. Miremadi (1991) suggests the following:

- a) Showing the differences between metaphors and ordinary expressions.
- b) During translating metaphors, accessing the resources.
- c) The constraints on translation should be realized trying to deliver the message.

## Semantic voids

Here, the expressions that represent ideas never discovered in other societies.

According to Dr. Miremadi (1991), this takes place in two conditions that are the extra-linguistic factors and the intra-linguistic factors.

## Proper names

Although they indicate individuals and can be transcribed from a language into another one, they may lose their specific meaning (e.g. Sami Al-Omari in Arabic).

## Syntactic problems

There are no two languages that have the same identical system of structural organizations as Dr. Miremadi (1991) quoted Nida (1975).

These differences include:

Style

Word classes

Pragmatic aspects,

Grammatical relations

Word order

According to these previous problems, a translator should explain the message of the text of the source language to the readers of the target

language. In fact, there is no identical translation for any text between the source and the target languages and as Dr. Miremadi (1991) quoted Werner (1961), the effect of the process of translation indicates the similarity between any two languages.

### **Types of strategies of translation:**

Many researchers offer several classifications for the strategies. Here, some of these typologies are mentioned.

Chesterman (1997) thinks about many aspects of the strategies of translation including:

They manipulate the text.

They must be applicable.

They are centered about a problem and can be applicable in a conscious way.

The strategies must be empirical and clear so that they become inter-subjective.

Other researchers tried to describe the types of strategies. One of them is Bergen's (n. d.) classification of the strategies that has three divisions:

### **1. Strategies of Comprehension 2. Strategies of Transfer, 3. Strategies of Production.**

According to his classification, the reader reads and understands a text. Later s/he analyzes the contrasts between the two texts; the source and the target one. In the end, s/he gives in the target language the equivalent text.

Lorsch (1996: 28) talks about several elements to build blocks of the strategies of translation:

The main components of the strategies of translation:

Recognizing the problem of translation. –

Verbalizing that problem. –

Looking for an acceptable solution to that problem. –

Primarily solve the problem of translation. –

–Sections of a solution to that problem.

–Solution to that Problem can be found.

–Thinking about finding the solution of that problem.

In the reception of the Source Language text, there could be a problem.

The initial notion indicates that there might be a problem in translation and it is the translator's job to solve it.

Hatim and Munday (2004) declared that several concepts of translation are related to the strategies of the content and form of both literal and free translations. In fact, the main translation problems are in arenas related to the type of the text and its audience.

### **Local strategies:**

The taxonomy of translation strategies can be easily explained according to Chesterman (1997), as quoted by Bergen (n. d.). Its main strategy is changing a certain part. So, Chesterman (1997) does not mean substituting the source text words by their equivalent words in the target text. There are many normal changes are decided by the translators as:

a) The words used in the source language text.

b) The structures of words.

c) The source text context.

### **Strategies of Syntax:**

They refer to changing the structure of grammar of the target text according to the source text.

Chesterman (1997) shows his initial attempt of the syntactic strategy which is the literal translation.

–**Literal translation:** means that the translator translates the text of the source language without following the structure of the source language. It is obvious that literal translation is the simplest translation strategy through which a translator selects to keep the words of the original text

with its effect and cultural nuances. Despite the fact that literal translation is criticized for being too direct and restrictive.

For example, Pierce Morgan said "**Do you condemn Hamas?**" and is translated as

هل تدين حماس؟

is also used by Bassam Yousef referring to the "**West Bank**" الضفة الغربية

which is an area in Palestine. is translated literally referring to "**human shields**". دروع بشرية.

–**Loan translation:** This means borrowing one term and following the source text structure that is unfamiliar to the reader of the target language.

"**Hamas**" is considered a clear example of loan translation since it is a name that refers to a certain Palestinian group.

"**Okay, Habibie**" is an Arabic expression used by Bassam Yousef which means "**hey dear**". It indicates showing that feeling of kindness.

#### **Transposition:**

It is considered a technique to change the grammar in the language of the source text to be suitable to the language of the target text. Here, the translator may find another category of grammar which is better than the original one.

حماس متغلغلة بين المدنيين:

This is a translation of "**Hamas is embedded** with civilian's population". Such an example shows the change of the grammatical structure of "**embedded**" which is a **verb** to become in the Arabic translation an **adjective**.

**Paraphrase structure change:** It leads to some changes which happen in the structures of the phrases of nouns and verbs.



**Clause structure change:** the changes affect the constituent clauses such as the changing the active verb into the passive.

"حماس سخرت حياتها لإبادة الشعب اليهودي"

This sentence is said in English by Pierce Morgan as "**Hamas is dedicated to complete eradication of the Jewish people**". The passive form of the English sentence is transformed into the active one in Arabic.

**Sentence structure change:** The sentence structure is changed to change the connection between subordinate clauses and the main ones.

"عين الله ترعاك":

It is a translation of the sentence "**It is fine, you have done your job**".

**Cohesion change:** it occurs in the form of references like, ellipsis, pronouns or even repetition. It affects intra-textual cohesion.

"قتلهم هو فعل الخير"

It is a translation of "**Killing them is good**". This is an example of this strategy where the **pronoun "them"** is clear enough referring to **Palestinians**.

**Level shift:** It indicates morphological, phonological, lexical and syntactical levels which are available in all languages as Chesterman (1997) suggests.

**Scheme change:** It includes rhythm, alliteration, and parallelism just like in literature. That is clear in choosing collocations and sentences.

"قطيع من الهمج":

It is an expression represents the idea of the parallelism of collocation and it is a translation of "**A pack of savages**".

"معضلة كبيرة":

It is also another example of scheme change that is a translation of the expression "**Massive problem**".

**Semantic strategies:**

According to Chesterman's (1997), there is a classification of the semantic strategy and its own subcategories:

**1.Synonyms:** Here, the translator chooses the close synonym by avoiding literal translation.

"أرض الميدان":

This expression is a translation of "**battle**".

"فظائع":

It is such a good synonym for "**bad stuff**".

**2.Antonym:** the translator can use the opposite meaning of the word. That usually happens by combining with a negative meaning.

"يا له من فعل لطيف!":

This is a good example which is an example of "**How fucking cute!**"

**3.Hyponym:** It is to use one member of large collection (e.g. apple is a hyponym to fruit). As for hypernym, it is a related superordinate term and describes the whole collection with a broad term. For example, fruit is a hypernym to apple).

**4.Converses:** it is using pairs of opposition to express the same semantic relationship (e.g. borrow–lend).

**5.Trope change:** it is like a metaphor by comparing two things using phrases that might be not related with the purpose of showing a similar meaning.

"تيلسون مانديلا مثال يحتذى للوصول إلى السلام"

"**Nelson Mandela was a template for peace**". Here, the word **template** is translated to indicate the meaning of being a role model.

**6.Abstraction change:** It is concerned with changing from concrete terms to abstract ones or the opposite.

**7.Distribution change:** It is to distribute a semantic component over other items like (expansion) or fewer ones like (compression).

**8.Emphasis change:** It is to decrease, increase or even change the emphasis of thematic focus of the translated text.

"هدفهم المعلن هو إبادة حماس عن بكرة أبيها"

This is a translation of what Bassam said "**The stated aim is to eradicate and wipe out Hamas**". This emphasis is to show the cruelty of Israel in the translated text.

**9.Paraphrase strategy:** it attempts to make a liberal close translation where we can ignore some lexical items.

بعد أن قمت بتحطيم محكمتنا العليا"

This sentence is used by Bassam Yousef addressing his speech to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, and Bassam literally said "**After you have fucked our courts**".

**Pragmatic strategies:**

**1.Cultural filtering:** It is the concrete realization of the target culture-oriented translation as Chesterman (1997 as cited in Bergen n. d.) suggests.

**2.Explicitness change:** we can add or delete some pieces of information to the text of the source language to make its explicitness more or less.

"كيف تعامل مانديلا مع أمته عندما كانت ممزقة في حربها الأهلية؟"

It is translation for "**How did Mandela respond to a country that was so divided?**"

This is such a good example of explicitness showing how the word "**divided**" is translated into Arabic to explain the idea clearly.

**3.Information change:** like the previous strategy but with no implicit of the changed information in the text of the source language.

**4.Interpersonal change:** to have an effect on the text style by making it informed either less or more.

**5.Speech act:** by changing the speech act of the source text by being obligatory or non-obligatory.

**6.Visibility change:** It is to increase the author's presence in the source text or the translator like the footnotes added by any of them.

**7.Coherence change:** It is the change of the micro–structure level (e.g. a sentence or a paragraph). However, coherence change is about a higher textual level. It is when you combine many paragraphs with each other in a way that is different from the text of the source language).

**8.Partial translation:** It is translating a part of a text.

**9.Trans–editing:** It is to edit extensively the original text.

"هؤلاء الحقراء حماس"

This is such a suitable example used by Bassam Yousef referring to Trans–editing when he said "**Those sons of bitches, Hamas**"

Add to what is previously mentioned, Venuti (2001) states, from Vinay and Darbelnet's (1958) perspective, there are two methods for translators to select named as:

**Indirect or Oblique translation and Direct or Literal translation:**

When we cannot translate literally, the reason could be the differences that may happen lexically and syntactically between the two languages. So, we can use the Indirect translation.

**There are several subcategories for the Oblique/Indirect translation:**

**1.Borrowing:** it is tackling a meta–linguistic difference. For instance, "software" or "shampoo" can be translated from English into Arabic, so we should not change them while translating. Many English borrowed words such as algebra, lemon, alcohol, algorithm, and cotton are originally Arabic. If any borrowed word has just entered a new language, it's written in italics.

For example, hamburger (German), Café (French) and kimono (Japanese).

Many expressions are used during the interview like "**Gaza, Hamas, Israel and West Bank**" by both Bassam Yousef and Morgan.

**2.Calque:** It is one kind of borrowing where the word that is borrowed is literally translated into the language of the target text. Here, a translator selects word–for–word translation even if the resulting word is new in

the language of the target text. The cold war is an example of words adopted by many other languages.

الحرب الباردة. An example is the cold war:

"is an example used in the interview by both Bassam and Morgan الضفة الغربية"

who referred to it saying "**West Bank**".

**2. Literal translation:** means transferring a text in the source language to the suitable equivalent in the target language. This technique is possible with close languages.

"حماس مصدر كل الشر"

It is said by Morgan in English as "**Hamas is the source of evil**".

**3. Transposition:** Here, the changes are the grammatical in the source language to suit the target language. That is replacing one word with another one without any change of the meaning.

"دعنا نفترض أنه تم القضاء على حماس"

This is the translation of what Bassam says in English "**Let's say that Hamas is removed**". We notice that the verb "**removed**" is changed into a noun in the Arabic translation.

**4. Modulation:** is the change in the thought either inside or outside any language to translates the text that to suit the language of the target text.

Modulation includes many types, including positive into negative; passive into active; whole for part; cause for effect, and many more.

"يا له من أمر مؤسف!"

"**That sacks, Man**" is the translation of what Bassam Yousef said.

**5. Equivalence:** It is also called reformulation. This means changing the stylistic and structural situations of two situations. The two texts include the source and its equivalent; the target text. It works on idioms, proverbs and slogans. Equivalence can be used when literal translation

cannot be used. This helps to explain the meaning of expressions by finding the equivalent in the target language.

Example: If someone says thank you in English, your answer can be: "don't mention it". But in Arabic, you would say "عفوا" instead. Do not forget that here a literal translation of the English response "لا تذكر الأمر" would give an eerie feeling to the receiving audience. "عفوا" is the most natural

"أكرههم أشد الكره"

"**I am fucking hate Hamas**" is an equivalent translation of what Bassam Yousef mentioned during the interview.

**6.Adaptation:** It occurs when there are some cultural differences occur between the source language and the target one. In this way, translation is considered special.

Add to that, there is the idea of cultural substitution between the source text and the target one.

During the interview, Bassam also said "**Fuck Hamas**" which is translated as:

"فليذهبوا إلى الجحيم"

**7.Compensation:**

It is when you are not able to translate an item in one place of the text. So, you express the information at another point of the text.

Example: In English, one can say 'you', but in French you say it in both ways; 'tu' (informal) and 'vous' (formal).

"تكافؤ الرد"

This is considered such a good example explaining the concept of "**Proportion**".

**8.Reduction:**

It is to remove some redundant words in the original text.

For example, in English, we can say 'politics' but in French they say 'sciences politiques' [literally; political sciences].

Bassam Yousef said "It is fine, you have done your job!" which is translated as

"عين الله ترعاك"

### **9.Expansion:**

Reduction is considered the opposite of expansion. We can add some words to keep the meaning intact. The reason is the differences in grammar or the sentence structure.

An example about that is, 'politics' in English would be rendered as 'sciences politiques' in French.

"حسن فاشل في حياته ولا قيمة له"

This sentence is considered an example of the word "loser". So, one word is translated into a whole sentence in the target language.

**Here comes the role of the taxonomy of Baker. Mona Baker (1992: 26–42) suggests several strategies that have been used by many professional researchers and translators, to deal with the problems during translation.**

### **1.Translation using more general words:**

Baker suggests that it works in an appropriate way in several languages, because meaning is not language dependent according to the in the semantic field.

"المستوطنات"

This expression is the translation of "illegal settlement".

### **2.Translation by a more neutral/ less expressive word:**

"يا له من فعل لطيف منهم!"

**This is the neutral translation of what Bassam said "How fucking cute!"**

### **3.Cultural substitution Translation:**

It is to replace an expression with another one in the target language by considering its effect on the reader of the text. This makes the target text more familiar to the target reader.

"ذلك الكذاب الحقير كذب علي!"

This is a translation of what Bassam said **"The lying son of a bitch lied to me!"**

**The decisions taken by translators for this strategy will be dependent on:**

1– The translation commission will give the license to the translator.

2–The aim of translation.

3– Loan words can be used for explanation while translating:

This is done while dealing with culture-specific items, buzzwords and modern concepts. It is beneficial to use loan words with an explanation when some words are repeated many times within the text.

4–Using related words to paraphrase:

Some words are sometimes repeated frequently in the source text with a certain form that would seem natural in text of the target language.

Using unrelated words for translation by paraphrase:–5

This is used when the idea in the source item is not existed in the lexicalized form in the text of the target language.

When there is a kind of complication in the meaning of the source word in the text of the target language, paraphrasing can be used to avoid related words.

6–Translation by omission:

We can omit some expressions in some contexts. That happens when a particular expression conveys the meaning. In fact, it is not necessary to mention some long expressions in order to avoid lengthy explanations.

7–Translation by illustration

When some aspects of the target equivalent item are not covered by the source item. We should avoid over-explanation and try to be concise.

All in all, theorists offer their strategies according to their own perspective. In fact, the taxonomy of translation strategies by Baker's



involves many suitable strategies. This explains the strategies utilized by many professional translators in a clear way.

**Conclusion:**

According to this study, many concepts were discussed like translational problems, translation strategies, and the various translation theories strategies are also mentioned here. It is clear that those theorists provide many explanations of strategies of translation depending on their own points of view. To add more, Baker (1992) suggests several suitable strategies for translation indeed. However, translators use various techniques counting on the type of text, aim of translation and the target reader.

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