

## Challenges in Translating Political Topoi: The Case of Joe Biden's War-Time Rhetoric

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### Abstract

The translation of Biden's political statements during the Russian-Ukrainian War into Arabic is the main topic of this study. Since topoi function as a framework of ideology, values, and power relations, they are regarded as commonplaces or lines of argument in political discourse. By focusing on translation tactics, translation obstacles, and the actuality of meaning shift, the study aims to extract and identify the main topoi in Biden's speeches and examine how his rhetorical devices are translated into Arabic. Using a purposive sample of speeches given between 2022 and 2023 and a discourse-analytical method, the study adopts a qualitative methodology. The study looks at how much the Arabic translations preserve the original writings' persuasive power as well as how politics and culture influence translation choices. Expected results describe the function of ideology in translating political discourse, as well as patterns of rhetorical gain or loss and translation tactics.

**Key-words :** statements , topoi , tactics , persuasive

تحديات ترجمة الخطابات السياسية : بلاغة خطاب جو بايدن وقت الحرب

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### ملخص

تعد ترجمة تصريحات بايدن السياسية خلال الحرب الروسية الأوكرانية إلى اللغة العربية الموضوع الأساسي لهذه الدراسة , ونظرا لان الخطابات السياسية تشكل إطارا للايديولوجيا والقيم وعلاقات القوة , فإنها تعتبر من المسلمات أو خطوط الحجاج في الخطاب السياسي , ومن خلال التركيز على أساليب الترجمة ومعوقاتهما وحقيقة تحول المعنى , تهدف الدراسة إلى استخلاص وتحديد الخطابات السياسية الرئيسية في خطابات بايدن ودراسة كيفية ترجمة أدواته البلاغية إلى اللغة العربية , وباستخدام عينة مختارة من الخطابات التي ألقيت بين عامي 2022 و 2023 ومنهج تحليل الخطاب , تتبنى الدراسة منهجية نوعية , وتبحث الدراسة في مدى احتفاظ الترجمات العربية بقوة الإقناع في النصوص الأصلية , وكيف تؤثر السياسة والثقافة على خيارات الترجمة . تصف النتائج المتوقعة وظيفة الأيديولوجيا في ترجمة الخطاب السياسي , بالإضافة إلى أنماط المكاسب أو الخسائر البلاغية وتكتيكات الترجمة .

الكلمات المفتاحية : تصريحات , مواضيع , تكتيكات , مقنع

### 1.0 Introduction

Political discourse creates compelling tales for both internal and foreign parties, particularly during times of crisis. There has been much discussion and controversy on the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war, especially in the US. For example, President Biden has described the war as a struggle for democracy, security, and a new world order in addition to geopolitical concerns. Freedom vs tyranny and unity versus division are two examples of the stated topoi that contribute to the discussion and perception of the war and, consequently, to the support for it. These arguments are crucial to the conflict as they mostly rely on common values, beliefs, and emotions.

These topoi are hard to translate into Arabic. There is a culture, a set of beliefs, and a language associated with political debate in general. As a result, translation may lessen its persuasive power. The translator must simultaneously maintain accuracy and impact. When translating sensitive political issues that affect society's perspective and cut across cultural boundaries, the complexity rises significantly.

The study intends to investigate how Biden's Arabic statements endorsing the Russian-Ukrainian war are translated using topoi. It seeks to ascertain the dominant topoi, examine the translation techniques, and evaluate how much of their persuasive power is retained in the translated text. The study contributes to the ongoing conversation in translation studies on how ideology and culture affect the translation of political discourse by examining the relationship between rhetoric, politics, and translation.

### 1.1 The Concept of Discourse

In linguistics and the social sciences, the term "discourse" is broad and frequently used to refer to organized textual collections and communication activities that give meaning in a social setting. Knowledge, identity, and power within cultures can all be expressed through these discourse forms, which can take many different forms, including written texts, spoken language, and even body language. Political speeches are especially significant in this regard since they not only influence public opinion but also reveal the speaker's beliefs and goals. (Fairclough, 1992:23 )

Another way to think about political speech is as a strategic kind of communication that seeks to inform, mobilize, and persuade the general public. Additionally, officials use it as a means of communication in which alludes to the audience's own preferences and aspirations for topoi or topoi through the use of rhetorical devices (Fairclough, 1992:23).

According to Fairclough (1992:32), translating political discourse—especially speeches made by politicians—is a complex process that combines translation, culture, and context in a variety of ways. While adapting to the target audience's linguistic and cultural norms, the translator must be ready to navigate the complexities of upholding the speaker's argument and the essence of his message. In order to analyze how political speeches function and how their translation may impact the message's reception and interpretation in a different language and cultural context, it is essential to have a solid understanding of discourse.

### 1.2 Discourse Types

Brown and Yule (1983:20) states that discourse can be broadly classified as either spoken or written, and each category has unique features regarding the creation and realization of meaning in textual messages. Analyzing political speeches and translating them requires an understanding of various kinds.

#### 1.2.1 Spoken discourse

The domain of language where verbal communication occurs with immediateness and engagement is known as spoken discourse. The majority of the time, this communication is the result of an impromptu reply and is followed right away by audience comment. The speaker can make dynamic adjustments to the message based on the response, which makes it more responsive and interesting (Brown & Yule, 1983:24). The following are some noteworthy aspects of spoken discourse:

a) *Spontaneity*: Spoken discourses are typically created spontaneously and without prior planning. They are therefore more relatable and natural. They are filled with colloquialisms, fillers, and non-standard language elements that make the communication more direct and intimate since they are more casual than written discourses (Coulthard, 1975:76).

b) *Prosody*: By highlighting points and attitude toward the subject matter, intonation, stress, and rhythm in speech communicate meaning and emotion. Nonverbal Cues: Body language, facial expressions, and gestures that accompany spoken words, adding depth to the meaning and so making arguments concerning attitudes and emotions more vivid. Spoken discourse is what establishes the speaker's presence and authority, engages the audience, and conveys the persuasive messages in political speeches. In order to preserve the meaning of the speech and its emotional impact on the listener, dynamic factors should be considered when transferring spoken discourse, particularly in political contexts. (Coulthard, 1975:78).

(say something to end the subsection)

### 1.2.2 Written Discourse

The term "written discourse" describes the written materials used in communication. In contrast to speech, it is typically far more structured and durable. Written texts have a higher potential for Written discourse is an example of a more polished, cohesive argument since it allows one to consider and revise new ideas before communicating them (Fairclough, 1989:34). The most typical traits of written speech are as follows:

a) *Formality*: Written texts typically have a formal tone, excellent clarity, and standard language, syntax, and style traits.

b) *Organization*: Written texts typically consist of an introduction, body, and conclusion that are all well-organized and cohesive. This format makes it easier for readers to understand the main ideas and follow the argument's progression.

c) *Lack of response Time*: There is no such thing as instant response from one's audience, which is nearly constant in spoken literature, unlike spoken language. This suggests that the author must anticipate readers' queries and interpretations and provide answers to them in the text itself (Fairclough, 1989:34).

d) *Permanence*: When a written text is paged and recorded, it becomes accessible for future reference and analysis. According to Fairclough (1989:35), written political discourse is that which is produced beforehand, such as speeches, official declarations, and their transcriptions, or spontaneous press conferences. Thus, all aspects of the message from the source language must be expressed in the target language with some degree of sense, and the translation of written political speech must be completely comprehended. Generally speaking, the message's tone, content, and persuasive appeal should all be maintained within the target addressees' linguistic and cultural standards (Fairclough, 1989:39). Political communication encompasses both written and oral conversations. Political speech translators must be aware that dealing with written and spoken discourses presents different challenges (Ibid). The audience reacts to a spoken discourse in the same way that the Arabic-speaking one did due to the speech's emotional impact, coherence, and the translation. **1.3 Language Used in Political Discourse**

Political communication uses specific and deliberate word choices and linguistic structures. It is intended to assist in achieving objectives such as influencing issues, rallying support, and persuading others. Seidel (1985:21). a thorough understanding of the nature and purpose of political language, as well as appropriate analysis and translation. The strong personalities that distinguish the political languages are included in this section. Political speech is by its very nature persuasive since it seeks to persuade listeners to support a position or a planned course of action. To increase the persuasiveness of political speeches, people have used a variety of figures of speech. These include logos, which consists of logical reasons; pathos, which appeals to emotions; and ethos, which is

authoritative and believable. For example, in order to win over the audience, politicians typically attempt to showcase their background, integrity, and morals. To inspire the reader to follow particular courses of action, they actually attempt to arouse feelings of fear, hope, pride, or rage (Yule, 1983:91).

Additionally, a political speech's instruments are its rhetorical tactics. Metaphors are among the most widely used devices. These create vivid images and contrasts between two objects, making a difficult issue easier to grasp and more comprehensible. Analogies highlight the commonalities between two separate but disassociated items. It is what makes strong arguments more comprehensible and persuasive.

Repetition of key words or concepts highlights their significance and helps the listener remember them. Grouping ideas into threes or triads helps increase the speech's impact and memorability. For instance, framing a political dispute as a "battle" makes it seem more pressing and difficult; catchphrases like "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," for instance, are simple to remember and spread. (Baker,2011:45).

Politicians use framing to present particular issues in an effort to change the audience's perception. It aids in guiding the comprehension of the issues by allowing politicians to highlight what is highly stressed and what is downplayed. Thus, persuasive framing will impact public opinion and policy discussions. One explanation for the public's acceptance of a tax rise could be because it is seen as a necessary measure to achieve "economic fairness" rather than a "further burden."

Uncertainty is another tactic used by politicians; it gives them the ability to lecture or, in the future, to interpret things anyway they see fit. That permit isn't being too hostile. in any particular organization and gives them the freedom to debate various viewpoints. When translating the political speeches into Arabic, these aspects ought to function well (Ibid). Understanding language used in political speech reveals how politicians formulate the statements that will direct their desired outcomes. It goes into further detail about the significance of framing, simplification, strategic ambiguity, and rhetorical term devices in political communication. These are important factors that must be carefully considered in the translation process in order to maintain the integrity of the original speech and its impact (Meyer, 2001:43).

### 1.3.1 The Ideological Perspective

Fairclough (1989) highlights that political language's use of ideology shapes audiences' perceptions of social and political reality by expressing and advancing particular values and ideas. Politicians create a distinct division between "us" and "them" by emphasizing shared values, history, and objectives through language in order to construct group identities (Sacks, 1989). They give legitimacy to their programs by tying them to generally recognized values like justice and fairness (Dijk, 2004). Political speeches frequently criticize rival ideologies in an effort to undermine them and strengthen their own stance (Fairclough, 2003). In political discourse, moral and ethical arguments elicit intense emotional responses by presenting problems as moral requirements. It is necessary to comprehend the underlying beliefs while translating such ideological language in order to maintain the target culture's ideological aim and persuasive force (Dijk, 2004).

### 1.3.2 The Power Perspective

In light of this, political discourse ought to be viewed as the essential tool for the exercise and justification of power. Given this, language is purposefully employed to sway public opinion, lead policy discussions and lend credibility to the prevailing political narrative. According to Ellece (2002:71), this emphasis gives language's function in the dynamics of power and control more

weight. Mentioning some facts at the expense of others is an example of information control, in which politicians regulate the flow of information using words. The readers' or listeners' responsiveness to a problem will be determined by this type of voluntary presentation. For instance, the politician fosters a more favorable impression when the benefits of a policy that has more advantages than disadvantages are discussed.

Most of the time, the nature of political public debate is overflowing with arguments meant to influence widely held beliefs. The deft use of rhetorical tactics, emotional appeals, and argument structuring gives rise to this capacity to influence opinion and broad consensus (Allan, 2001:9). Fear appeals, for instance, are employed to exaggerate possible risks in an effort to get more people to support more stringent security measures. By framing a situation as a crisis, they essentially coerce the audience into purchasing policies that they would otherwise oppose. Language gives legitimacy to authority. Politicians first establish their legitimacy by state laws or customs, and then most importantly by the support of the general public. To support their power, they can use historical precedents, constitutional precepts, or election mandates. They validate their function and identify justification for behavior in this way (Joseph, 2006:33).

Political reality is largely constructed through political discourse. Politicians can create what is at risk, who the important people are, and what the solutions are from language. These kinds of structures are intended to establish in advance how the general public views and behaves in relation to political events.

A politician can, for example, affect how the public views a particular issue by portraying an international conflict as a fight for democracy (Harvey, 1996:66).

In political discourse, rhetorical devices—usually metaphors—are widely employed in an effort to increase vigor through persuasive force. Metaphors help to make difficult situations easier to understand. By drawing comparisons, analogies help make an argument relatable. The key points are reinforced and made memorable by repetition. Thus, by helping politicians emotionally engage their audience, these tools help them make their points more convincing. It is important to preserve the speech-source's persuasive techniques, emotive appeals, and authoritative tones while transferring complex power dynamics in political discourse. The translator must locate identical phrases in the target language that are strategic, have the same impact, and have a strong purpose: a speech that persuades the source audience is to be successful with the target audience (Foucault, 1984:88).

#### 1.4 The Concept of Topoi in Political Discourse

Topoi are standard lines of reasoning that speakers can use to craft their speeches. In rhetorical and political discourse, topoi are fundamental topics and arguments that politicians use to resonate with their audience's values and beliefs (Van Dijk, 1995:243). It is crucial to understand topoi in order to evaluate political speeches and their translations. Topoi are lines of argument that resonate with the audience's preexisting beliefs and feelings; they function as a rhetorical shorthand. Here, topoi are interpreted as the fundamentals of persuasive argumentation, encompassing commonly held beliefs and ideals that may be employed to bolster a broad range of claims. In other words, they aid in organizing arguments so that they are relatable and persuasive (Van Dijk, 1995:244).

##### 1.4.1 Characteristics of Topoi

Topoi have numerous features that make them extremely effective instruments for political debate (Wodak, 2001:27), such as:

1. *Universality*: Topoi may often be used in almost any situation because it is based on universal principles and ideals. This fundamental universality could be used by politicians to effectively address the public.
2. *Flexibility*: Topoi are useful in a variety of contexts and can be modified to support a specific viewpoint. This flexibility makes them a precious gem for the construction of persuasive discourse.
3. *Emotional Resonance*: Most topoi have very powerful emotional connotations and can, thus, act to transport the audience and provoke emotions, so that they might fully understand their persuasiveness (Yousef, 2021:45).

### 1.5 Political Discourse and Translation

Political discourse translation is difficult and nuanced since it involves much more than just switching out one language for another. It assumes a thorough understanding of the rhetorical, intellectual, and cultural background of the conversation. Topoi and other rhetorical devices are frequently used to adorn political speeches; these must be carefully translated to leave an effect on the audience (Van Dijk, 1995:243).

#### 1.5.1 Challenges in Interpreting Political Discourse

Political discourse poses unique challenges for interpreters due to its complex language, cultural nuances, and ideological undertones. The following points highlight the main difficulties faced in interpreting political discourse:

- 1) *Cultural context*: The broad cultural background of the source language is crucial for political discourse. Ideas, beliefs, and references will all fit together nicely in one culture, yet they will seem completely different in another. For example, in order to convey its full significance, a historical event or cultural symbol that represents a sense of patriotism may need to be modified or explained (Ibid).
- 2) *Ideological Nuances*: Political speeches typically contain more strongly held ideological views than any other type of discourse. This implies that a translator must be aware of the ideological connotations that the language presents during the translation process and either preserve or alter them as needed. Ideological nuances that are misinterpreted or not presented might result in a loss of meaning or, worse, a distortion of the speaker's intention (Ottosen, 1995:97).
- 3) *Rhetorical devices*: Political speeches frequently include metaphors, analogies, allusions, and other rhetorical devices to highlight the speech's persuasiveness. As a result, they can be challenging to translate. In the target language, it will be crucial to elicit a rhetorical device that has the same weight and produces a comparable persuasive impact (Ibid).
- 4) *Persuasive and emotional impact*: The purpose of political speeches is to influence people's emotions and persuade them. The translator must thus make sure that the translation preserves any impact that the original speech's use of emotion and persuasion produced. To compete with the target language's emotional tone, this could entail completely distinct register shifts or rhetorical motions (Ibid).

There are countless challenges in translating political speech because language, culture, and politics are all intertwined. The purpose of these speeches is not to provide facts; rather, it is to persuade, inspire, and mobilize the audience. This phrase addresses some of the challenges associated with translating political discourse only to highlight the complex processes that translators must carefully handle in order to facilitate communication between languages and cultures (Banhegyi, 2014: 147).

These are:

1. *Cultural Problems and Contexts* : Political discourse is firmly anchored in historical and cultural reality, which precludes direct translation. It is necessary to modify or clarify cultural allusions, idioms, and references for the intended audiences (Banhegyi, 2014).
2. *Emotive and Persuasive Power*: Persuasion, ambiguity, and emotional appeal are key components of political speeches. Without creating misunderstandings, translators must maintain the strategic

ambiguity and emotional tone. (Karoubi, 2005:101).

3. *Context-Specific Words*: Jargon, legalese, and institutional allusions are frequently used in political speeches. Understanding the political systems of the source and the target is necessary for accurate translation (Karoubi, 2005:101)..

4. *Length and Pacing*: It might be challenging to maintain a speech's rhythm and rhetorical flow when speaking a foreign language. Translators must balance modification for target audiences with faithfulness to the source material, which presents ethical challenges. Political comedy and irony are particularly challenging to convey successfully since they rely largely on context. (Mason,1994:81). In order to accurately reflect the original speech's meaning, tone, and intent, political discourse interpretation calls for more than just language proficiency; it also calls for cultural awareness, contextual understanding, and ethical sensitivity.

### 1.5.2 Strategies for Translating Political Discourse

Translating political discourse requires careful consideration of both language and context to preserve meaning and intent. The following strategies help translators handle the complexities and sensitivities of political language effectively:

1) *Cultural Adaptation*: A political speech's substance must be modified to reflect the translator's perception of the target audience's cultural context. It involves re-contextualizing the speech's topics and references rather than translating language. A speech that emphasizes democratic values, for example, can be modified to highlight other value systems that are similar but essential to the target culture, thus in a way that is appropriate for the target culture (Stawicki, 2009: 66).

2) *Preserving Ideological Coherence*: The translated discourse needs to be ideologically consistent with the original. While adapting the original for cultural relevance, a translator must exercise caution and recognize that the words convey the speaker's ideological stance. To fit within the receiving party's ideological framework, it would entail looking for something like or an alternative approach to present arguments (Ibid:67).

3) *Equivalent Rhetorical methods*: To preserve the speech's persuasive power in the original language, equivalent rhetorical methods are required. It is the responsibility of translators to locate metaphors, analogies, and other expressions that will convey meaning and feelings that are comparable to those in the source text. This necessitates a thorough comprehension of the rhetorical traditions of the source and target languages (Ibid).

4) *Preserve Emotional Resonance*: The translation must preserve the emotional impact that typically characterizes political speeches. For instance, one should still elicit emotion from the target audience if they allow emotion to be present in a particular emotional appeal, emotive language, or selection of striking imagery. For instance, it's critical that the translation accurately conveys the use of passionate language, evocative imagery, and emotional appeals within a cultural context (ibid:69).

Naturally, gaining the best possible understanding of source and target cultures in terms of politics, society, and history is vital. The translator must understand political nuances and how they will be interpreted in different cultural situations. To guarantee that the speech being translated is correct or pertinent, this contextual understanding is crucial. The iterative process that political speech translations frequently entail, which includes multiple revisions and discussions with linguistic and cultural specialists, is another method of resolving this issue.

### 1.6 The Adopted model

In order to accomplish its goals, this study uses two primary models. In order to identify the underlying power structures and ideologies expressed through discourse, the chosen speeches are first linguistically analyzed using Wodak's (2009) argumentation topoi model. Second, the quality and difficulties of translating these talks from English into Arabic are evaluated using Newmark's (1988) translation model.

### 1.6.1 Wodak's (2009) Topoi Linguistics Model

Wodak (2009) approaches CDA from a different perspective. With a primary focus on the historical background, she modeled and integrated the interaction between action fields, genres, and texts. To understand this approach, one must take the object from the cycle of three analytical dimensions because it cannot be comprehended with individual operational phases. They are systematically and recursively connected to all of the contextual information. She asserts that accurate text description is possible at both the macro and micro levels. In summary, the following are DHA's guiding beliefs.(doc)

First and foremost, it is important to accurately record location and context since these are the special contextual grounds where speech is comprehended, processed, and explained. The second element is the content of assertions that need to be discussed in the context of past occurrences and facts. The third most important factor is the prescription of text on every possible language level (Wodak, 2001:73). The purpose of Wodak's (2009:32) discourse historical approach (DHA) is to make it possible to analyze biased remarks delivered in an indirect manner, namely to recognize and depict the codes and references inherent in biased speech. Wodak (2001:77) asserts that discourse is a social practice. However, she distinguishes between conversation and text. She tried; texts are concrete, enduring outcomes of language use. On the other hand, genre describes the set language use that goes along with a particular activity. The area of activity is a social reality that influences how the discourse module is formed and altered.

A synopsis of topoi based on Wodak's DHA (2009:44–48) is as follows:

1. Topoi are an essential part of any political speech because of their persuasive qualities.
2. They support both positive and negative attribution by arguing.
3. They are elements that must serve as the foundation of every argument, whether it be explicit or implicit.
4. They are compilations of general ideas that can be used to support more specific assertions or arguments.

Topoi, which are tools for argumentation, are used to persuade people because DHA focuses on analyzing argumentation schemes and emphasizes the importance of outlining sound or flawed argumentation (Forchtner, 2018:254). Additionally, by using specific topoi, one may produce specific arguments power and directions.

Topoi is a technique used in argumentation to show how arguments are used to support or refute particular actions and the inclusion or exclusion of social actors (Wodak, 2013). In content-related writing, topoi are the guidelines or justifications that link the arguments to the conclusion or main assertion (Jassim, 2019:38). They are employed to uphold a person's social status regardless of whether they were accepted or rejected (Wodak, 2001:27). The meaning of topoi and argumentation depends on the situation (Yousef, 2021:45). The following topoi are defined by Wodak (2001:78):

- 1) Topos of definition or topos of name-interpretation: if an object, an activity, or a group of individuals is named or designated (as) X, then the object, action, or individual (group of people) possesses or ought to possess the characteristics, traits, and attributes included in the (literal) meaning of X.
- 2) Topo of urgency: Due to an external, significant, and unchangeable event that is beyond of one's control and responsibility, decisions or actions must be swiftly thought through, weighed, and decided.
- 3) Topos of danger or threat: one should refrain from performing or doing a political action or decision if it has particular, dangerous, or threatening repercussions.

- 4) Topos of responsibility: a state or a group of people should take action to address certain issues since they are accountable for their emergence.
- 5) Topos of numbers: a particular action ought to be taken if the numbers support a particular topos.
- 6) The "topoi of authority," a rhetorical device, makes use of an authority figure's authority or credibility to bolster or convince a point.

**Topos of Definition or Name Interpretation** :If something or someone is given a special name, it should possess the attributes or characteristics that the name indicates (Wodak, 2009:65). **Topic of Urgency**:When an external or uncontrollable incident occurs, prompt action or decision is required to address it (Wodak, 2001). **Topos of Danger or Threat**: If a political action could have negative or risky consequences, it should be avoided or reviewed (Wodak, 2001). **Topos of Responsibility**: If a state or group is to blame for an issue, it must take steps to address it (Wodak, 2001).

### 1.6.2 Newmark's (1999) Approaches to Translation

Two important translation techniques, communicative and semantic translation, are introduced by Peter Newmark in *Approaches to Translation* (1981). Using either of these methods, he claims, any text may be translated successfully.

A. *Communicative Translation*: The goal of this method is to give the target audience the same impression that the original text had on its audience. Since culture is reflected in language, communicative translation aims to preserve some linguistic variances while communicating the cultural message. It guarantees that the translation in the target language is understandable, organic, and suitable for the target culture. As an illustration:

The main idea of the original is reflected in this Arabic translation, which conveys a similar notion by highlighting how appearances can be deceiving.

B. *Semantic Translation*: This approach concentrates more on the precise meaning of the source text, giving particular attention to its context and structure. Even if the translation seems less natural, it attempts to maintain the author's original purpose. As an illustration, "Hope springs eternal."

The original idea that hope continuously renews itself from within is preserved in this Arabic translation, which modifies the word to conform to Arabic linguistic and cultural conventions.

While both approaches take into account language and cultural aspects, Newmark highlights that their priorities are different: communicative translation puts the reader's comprehension first, whereas semantic translation puts the original meaning first.

### 1.7 Barriers to Translation

Translation is a complex and significant process that takes place within the interaction of two different cultures and worldviews (Delisle, 1988:74). It can be used to describe the academic field itself, the method, or the final product. A translator must convey meaning from the source language into the target language's proper form while translating written documents (Bassnett, 2002). Translation is a vital skill for intercultural communication, particularly for students pursuing it as a career. Any hesitation, rephrasing, or reference consulting throughout the translation process is considered a translation difficulty, according to Ghazala (1995:17). These difficulties can be divided into multiple groups:

#### 1. Lexical Issues

When translating terms with numerous meanings or culturally particular connotations, lexical problems might occur. These could be proverbs, idioms, phrases, or even acronyms (Ardelean, 2019:20).

For instance: "I'm going to the store to buy soda." → "انا ذاهب الى المتجر لشراء بعض الصودا" The Arabic word "ادوص" could be mistaken for baking soda, causing confusion and misinterpretation—a classic lexical mismatch—while the English word "soda" refers to a fizzy beverage.

#### 2. Grammatical Issues

Language-specific variations in syntax, sentence construction, and pronoun usage are the root cause

of grammatical difficulties. As noted by Mathieu (2003), grammar frequently needs to be modified in order to preserve the target language's fidelity and clarity.

As an illustration, "She gave the book to him."  
→ "أعطت الكتاب لها"

In this case, the Arabic pronoun "him" is transcribed mistakenly as "اهل" ("her"). This demonstrates the challenge of accurately translating pronouns by introducing a grammatical contradiction in addition to distorting the meaning.

### 3. Issues related to Culture

Language structure is only one aspect of cultural barriers in translation. Some idioms might not naturally translate since language is so ingrained in society (Nida, 2000:130). These are frequently the hardest to deal with.

For instance, "I'm having a blast!"  
→ "استمتع كثيرا انا"

The exact translation, "I'm really enjoying myself," does not convey the elation and passion of the original phrase. This exemplifies the cultural divide that translation must overcome.

## 1.8 Data and Discussion

The data for this study came from ten of Joe Biden's remarks regarding the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The inclusion of topoi in these speeches, which form the foundation for discourse analysis and translation evaluation, was a deliberate selection.

It was subsequently given to 7 M.A. students to translate the chosen English materials into Arabic. A linguistic analysis using Wodak's approach is presented after each source text has been introduced. The researcher then compares the students' translations to translations that were proposed using Newmark's approach. Through this comparison, the language and cultural difficulties that arise throughout the translation process will be identified, and the methods that students employ to render ideologically charged texts will be highlighted.

**SL Text (1):** *(The United States has rallied a coalition of more than 50 countries to support the defense of Ukraine).*

### TL Texts (1):

1. تمكنت الولايات المتحدة من تجميع تحالف يضم أكثر من ٥٠ دولة لدعم الدفاع عن أوكرانيا
2. احتشدت الولايات المتحدة للتحالف مع أكثر من ٥٠ دولة المساندة للدفاع عن أوكرانيا
3. تحالفت الولايات المتحدة مع أكثر من ٥٠ دولة لدعم الدفاع عن أوكرانيا.
4. لقد جمعت الولايات المتحدة تحالفا يضم أكثر من ٥٠ دولة لدعم الدفاع عن أوكرانيا
5. الولايات المتحدة تضم تحالف أكثر من خمسين دولة للدفاع عن أوكرانيا
6. حشدت الولايات المتحدة تحالف يضم أكثر من ٥٠ دولة لدعم الدفاع عن أوكرانيا
7. حشدت الولايات المتحدة تحالفا يضم أكثر من ٥٠ دولة، لدعم الدفاع عن أوكرانيا

### Discussion

Subject (1) uses a semantic translation approach and does a great job of accurately expressing the original material. Without making mistakes, the translation successfully conveys the main ideas of the original material. The Arabic translation of the source material is not accurate for subjects (2, 5) Grammatical consistency and the accurate use of terminology that correspond with the original text's intent are typically issues for these themes. These translations can be ascribed to a combination of literal and free translation techniques, wherein the strict adherence to the form of the original

language occasionally results in meaning or context errors. Participants (3 and 4) use a Semantic Translation technique to effectively communicate the primary idea while including minor details that could alter how the action being described is perceived. The use of verbs such as "تحالفت" (made an alliance) rather than describing the rallying action may suggest a slightly different coalition forming process, even though their translations are often accurate. Using the Semantic Translation approach, subjects (6, 7) correctly and properly translate the source material into Arabic. The translation is clear and accurate since these topics preserve the original text's factual content and grammatical integrity. Table (1) provides this information.

Table (1): The Analysis of TL Text (1)

| S11   | Subjects | Types of topics | Methods of translations   |             |               |                     |                  | Problem of translations |         |             | Appropriate |          |
|---|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|----------|
|   |          |                 | Communicative translation | translation | Word-for-word | Literal Translation | Free Translation | Translation             | Lexical | Grammatical |             | Cultural |
| The United States has rallied a coalition of more than 50 countries to support the defense of Ukraine). | 1        | Authority       | -                         | -           | -             | -                   | -                | +                       | -       | -           | -           | +        |
|   | 2        |                 | -                         | -           | -             | -                   | +                | -                       | -       | +           | -           | -        |
|   | 3        |                 | -                         | -           | -             | -                   | -                | +                       | -       | -           | -           | +        |
|   | 4        |                 | -                         | -           | -             | -                   | -                | +                       | -       | -           | -           | +        |
|   | 5        |                 | -                         | -           | -             | -                   | +                | -                       | -       | +           | -           | -        |
|   | 6        |                 | -                         | -           | -             | -                   | -                | +                       | -       | -           | -           | +        |
|   | 7        |                 | -                         | -           | -             | -                   | -                | +                       | -       | -           | -           | +        |

SL Text (2): ("He thought NATO would fracture and divide. Instead, NATO is more united and more unified than ever")

Source: (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023-remarks-by-president-biden-ahead-of-the-one-year-anniversary-of-russias-brutal-and-unprovoked-invasion-of-ukraine/>)

**TL Texts (2):**

1. كان يعتقد أن حلف شمال الأطلسي سينتسق وينقسم . بدلاً من ذلك، حلف شمال الأطلسي أكثر توحداً وتماسكاً من أي وقت مضى"
2. توقع هو بان النيتو سوف يتحطم وتنقسم لكن بدلا من هذا اتحدوا و وحدوا اكثر صفوفهم النيتو عن قبل.
3. كان يعتقد أن حلف شمال الأطلسي سينهار . بدلا من ذلك، حلف شمال الأطلسي أكثر توحيدا وتماسكا من أي وقت مضى".
4. " كان يعتقد أن الناتو سوف يتفكك وينقسم. وبدلاً من ذلك، أصبح الناتو أكثر اتحاداً وأكثر توحداً من أي وقت مضى
5. الناتو اكثر وحدة واتحادا
6. كان يعتقد أن الناتو سوف ينقسم ويتفكك. وبدلا من ذلك، أصبح الناتو أكثر اتحادا وأكثر توحدا من أي وقت مضى
7. لقد اعتقد أن الناتو سيتجزأ وبدلاً من ذلك، أصبح الناتو أكثر اتحاداً وقوة من أي وقت سبق.

**Discussion**

Subject (1) uses a semantic translation technique to accurately and successfully communicate the original text's meaning. it offers a clear, concise translation that faithfully conveys the subtleties and meaning of the original material. Subjects 2, 5, are unable to provide precise translations of the original material. They employ a Free Translation approach, which results in serious grammatical and semantic problems. The intended message may be confused by these translations' use of inaccurate language, changed meanings, and extra nuances not found in the source material. Using a literal translation approach, subjects 3, 4, 6, 7 are able to accurately translate the text. Even while their translations are generally accurate, occasionally they include small mistakes or subtleties that are a bit more intense than those in the source material. These translations are appropriate, nonetheless, because they preserve the original statement's overall meaning and factual content. Table (2) provides this information.

**Table (2): The Analysis of TL Text (2)**

| S11  | Subjects | Types of topics | Methods of translations   |                      |                  |             |                      | Problem of translations |             |          | Appropriate |
|--|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
|  |          |                 | Communicative translation | Faithful translation | word Translation | Translation | Semantic Translation | Lexical                 | Grammatical | Cultural |             |
| He thought NATO would fracture and divide. Instead, NATO is more | 1        | threat          | -                         | -                    | -                | -           | +                    | -                       | -           | -        | +           |
|  | 2        |                 | -                         | -                    | -                | +           | -                    | +                       | -           | -        |             |
|  | 3        |                 | -                         | -                    | +                | -           | -                    | -                       | -           | -        | +           |
|  | 4        |                 | -                         | -                    | +                | -           | -                    | -                       | -           | -        | +           |

|                                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| united and more unified than ever") | 5 | - | - | - | - | + | - | - | + | - | - |
|                                     | 6 | - | - | - | + | - | - | - | - | - | + |
|                                     | 7 | - | - | - | + | - | - | - | - | - | + |

SL Text (3): ("Together we've committed nearly 700 tanks and thousands of armored vehicles, 1000 artillery systems more than 2 million rounds of artillery ammunition...")

Source: (President Biden and President Zelenskyy of Ukraine in Joint Statement Mariinsky Palace Kyiv, Ukraine)

### TL Texts (3):

1. معًا، لقد التزمنا بنحو ٧٠٠ دبابة وآلاف المركبات المدرعة، و ١٠٠٠ نظام مدفعية وأكثر من ٢ مليون طلقة مدفعية"...
2. وقد قدمنا معًا حوالي ٧٠٠ دبابة و آلاف سيارات المدرعة، و الف أنظمة المدفعية مع اكثر من مليونين قاذفة و ذخائر المدافع
3. قد جهزنا معًا ما يقرب من ٧٠٠ دبابة وآلاف المركبات المدرعة و ١٠٠٠ نظام مدفعية وأكثر من مليوني طلقة من ذخيرة المدفعية
4. "لقد خصصنا معًا ما يقرب من ٧٠٠ دبابة وآلاف المركبات المدرعة، و ١٠٠٠ نظام مدفعية، وأكثر من مليوني طلقة من ذخيرة المدفعية"...
5. معًا، نحن قد التزمنا بالقرب من تجهيز أوكرانيا بـ ٧٠٠ دبابة وآلاف المركبات المدرعة و ١٠٠٠ نظام مدفعية وأكثر من ٢ مليون طلقة مدفعية.
6. لقد خصصنا معًا ما يقرب من ٧٠٠ دبابة وآلاف المركبات المدرعة و ١٠٠٠ نظام مدفعية وأكثر من مليوني طلقة من ذخيرة المدفعية
7. لقد خصصنا معًا ما يقرب من ٧٠٠ دبابة وآلاف من المركبات المدرعة، والف نظام مدفعية وأكثر من ٢ مليون طلقة ذخيرة مدفعية

### Discussion

Subjects (1, 5) are excellent at accurately expressing the original text's meaning. They use a Semantic Translation approach, which accurately and precisely translates the text while preserving the most important factual aspects. The translations provided by subjects (3, 4, 6, 7) are satisfactory. They employ a combination of semantic and literal translation techniques. Although there are some subtle differences in vocabulary (like *خصصنا* for committed) that may slightly change the source text's suggestion of direct action, these subjects retain the integrity of the factual content. Subject (2) finds it difficult to translate accurately while employing the Free Translation approach. Significant mistakes are introduced by this topic, such as the incorrect use of the terms "artillery systems" as "قاذفة (launchers)" and "ذخائر

(artillery munitions), which depart from the original meaning. Additionally, the translation's grammatical structure flows awkwardly. Table (3) provides this information.

**Table (3): The Analysis of TL Text (3)**

| S11   | Subjects | Types of topics | Methods of translations   |               |               |                     |                  |             | Problem of translations |         |             | Appropriate |
|---|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
|   |          |                 | Communicative translation | translational | Word-for-word | Literal translation | Free translation | Translation | Semantic                | Lexical | Grammatical |             |
| Together we've committed nearly 700 tanks and thousands of armored vehicles, 1000 artillery systems more than 2 million rounds of artillery ammunition...") | 1        | number          | -                         | -             | -             | -                   | -                | +           | -                       | -       | -           | +           |
|   | 2        |                 | -                         | -             | -             | -                   | +                | -           | -                       | +       | -           | -           |
|   | 3        |                 | -                         | -             | -             | -                   | -                | +           | -                       | -       | -           | +           |
|   | 4        |                 | -                         | -             | -             | -                   | -                | +           | -                       | -       | -           | +           |
|   | 5        |                 | -                         | -             | -             | -                   | -                | +           | -                       | -       | -           | +           |
|   | 6        |                 | -                         | -             | -             | -                   | -                | +           | -                       | -       | -           | -           |
|   | 7        |                 | -                         | -             | -             | -                   | -                | +           | -                       | -       | -           | +           |

**Conclusions**

The arrives at the following conclusions:

1. Joe Biden's political topoi appear to be difficult for translators to translate from English into Arabic. The comparatively low success rate of translating political speeches serves as proof of this. This confirms what the initial hypothesis in the first chapter claims.

2. It appears that knowledgeable translators are the ones most adept at translating political speech into Arabic. People who hear such language are more likely to mimic it accurately. This supports the second hypothesis.
3. Therefore, the free translation approach provides a great alternative to the rhetoric used in Joe Biden's political speeches.
4. When presenting Joe Biden's political remarks, translators encounter more fundamental grammatical issues than even lexical and cultural ones. This supports the third hypothesis.
5. This study briefly demonstrated that topoi methods function as a key historical instrument to think and comprehend the world in more tangible ways that are recognizable with our beings, rather than only being a part of our lexicon.

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