



## Evaluating the impact of Openness to Others on the Translators' Performance

Asst. Prof. Abdulsalam Abdulmajeed Al-Ogaili (Ph.D.)  
University of Basra, College of Arts, Department of Translation  
[Abdulsalam.abdulmajeed@uobasrah.edu.iq](mailto:Abdulsalam.abdulmajeed@uobasrah.edu.iq)

### Abstract in English

Enabling translators to bridge cultural and linguistic differences is a vital quality for them. This study examines the importance of maintaining openness to others for translators and seeks how translator training programs can integrate this quality to support performance. A review of translators' tasks reveals that maintaining openness to others remarkably enriches cross-cultural communicative abilities, cultural sensitivity, and collaboration. This study stems from Zetzschei 's assumption (2012) that maintaining openness to others is a foundational quality that enables translators to bridge linguistic and cultural gaps. The findings propose that translator training programs should focus on cultural awareness, cooperation, and continuous learning to provide competent translators. They revealed that translators, who have high levels of openness to others, provided translations that were more accurate, fluent, and culturally sensitive, showing a deeper understanding of the target audience and context. On the pedagogical levels, it is recommended that students of translation should be trained to emphasize maintaining openness to others to become productive cultural ambassadors, contributing to understanding and appreciation among different communities.

### Paper Info

#### Keywords

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*Translators'  
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## 1-Introduction

Translators play a pivotal role in bridging linguistic gaps and promoting understanding between different communities. Rendering a written text accurately from one language to another, and keeping its original meaning and intent is the translators' primary task (Venuti, 1995). But cultural

understanding and sensitivity are required in translation which is more than just converting words.

What enables translators to interact effectively with different viewpoints to understand subtle cultural differences, and convey precise meanings is being open to others quality. It is essential for translators. It involves allowing translators to understand the context and intent beyond the source text more deeply, and having the ability to accept different ideas as well (Venuti, 1995). Openness to others enhances cooperation, empathy, and cultural awareness, leading to improved quality and impact of translations.

Translator training programs should focus cultural awareness, flexibility, and continuous learning to provide competent translators. This can be done by combining cultural sensitivity training, encouraging cooperation and feedback, supporting a willingness to learn and adapt, and achieving empathy and understanding of different viewpoints.

In fact, Openness raises questions about the true role of translated texts, multilingual translation resources, the ethics of translators, their professional conduct, the self-perception of academics and researchers, as well as the role of research findings in society. Thus, this represents one of the most exciting challenges that the world of professional translation and translation studies have countered (Zetsche, 2012).

Being open to others is crucial in translation, as it enables translators to interact with different cultures, views, and ideas. Key aspects involve cultural sensitivity, willingness to learn, empathy, flexibility, and respect for diversity (Hooren, 2021; Jackson, 2021). Resulting in accurate and culturally relevant translations, these aspects help translators understand cultural subtleties, idiomatic expressions, and emotional tones,

As it enhances cultural sensitivity, cooperation, and adaptability, openness is crucial for translators, (Routledge, 2006). However, personal biases, language barriers, and time constraints challenges may hinder openness. Translators can adopt strategies such as continuous learning, self-reflection, collaborative practices, and seeking feedback to enhance openness (Munday, 2016). Critical thinking, willingness to accept feedback, curiosity, and

technological competence are aspects owned by open-minded translators (Baker, 2018; Malmkjær, 2016).

Studying the relationship between openness to others and translation performance aims to provide insights for developing effective translator training programs. This study explores the impact of openness to others on translators' performance, and answers the following question: What is the impact of openness to others on the translation performance, and how can translator training programs combine this quality to develop performance?

## **2-The Role of Openness to Others as a Foundational Quality in Translator Training Programs**

Although openness to others ability is widely recognized as important in translation practice, it often receives limited attention in translator training programs, particularly in the field of diplomatic translation. Many trainees concentrate primarily on linguistic accuracy and terminology, while competencies such as cultural awareness, neutrality, and empathy are not consistently or systematically developed (Smith, 2019: 45).

In sensitive contexts, a lack of openness can result in misunderstandings of polite forms, indirect meanings, or ideological nuances (Brown, 2020: 32; Byram, 1997: 36). These issues are significant, as diplomatic translation demands a high level of neutrality, discretion, and sensitivity to cultural differences.

While earlier studies suggest that openness can be cultivated through training, practical instructional approaches—such as role-playing, case studies, and peer feedback—are not always fully incorporated into diplomatic translation curricula (Jin, 2018: 14).

Therefore, a clear gap remains between acknowledging the importance of openness and effectively applying it in training contexts. This gap limits the preparation of students for the complex and high-stakes demands of diplomatic translation.

This study focuses on Openness to Others Ability as a core competence in translator training, with particular emphasis on diplomatic translation. It

investigates how openness—comprising empathy, cultural awareness, curiosity, neutrality, and tolerance for ambiguity affects translators' capacity to produce accurate, culturally sensitive, and ethically responsible translations in high-stakes political contexts. It examines:

-Conceptual Understanding: How openness is defined, its key characteristics, and its relevance to diplomatic translation.

-Acquisition and Development: Methods through which translators cultivate openness, including formal training, exposure to multicultural content, reflective practices, role-plays, and simulations.

-Practical Application: The impact of openness on translation quality, neutrality, and avoidance of ideological bias, highlighting its role in preventing diplomatic misunderstandings and promoting intercultural sensitivity.

The study is limited to translators and trainees involved in translation, and data will be drawn from observation of translator training programs. By focusing on this scope, the study aims to provide evaluative insights into developing openness in translators, enhancing their professionalism and effectiveness in culturally sensitive contexts. It highlights openness to others ability as a critical yet underexplored competence in translator training, particularly in translation. Its significance lies in several areas:

-Translator Training: Provides guidance for curriculum designers to integrate openness-focused activities, such as role-plays, reflective exercises, and intercultural exposure, enhancing trainees' ethical and cultural competence.

-Professional Translators: Offers insights into how empathy, neutrality, and cultural awareness improve translation accuracy, reduce ideological bias, and prevent misunderstandings.

-Intercultural Communication Research: Contributes to understanding how psychological and attitudinal competencies affect negotiation, conflict prevention, and cross-cultural dialogue.

-Translation Ethics: Reinforces the importance of impartiality, discretion, and empathy in sensitive contexts.

Overall, the study emphasizes that developing openness in translators is essential for producing ethically responsible, culturally informed, and professionally competent translations in sensitive contexts.

### **3-Literature Review**

Openness to others is an essential quality for translators. It enables them to understand subtle cultural differences, idiomatic expressions, and emotional tones (Venuti, 1995; Hooren, 2021). This includes accepting, emphasizing with, and being curious about different views, cultures, and experiences (Cronin, 2003). Cultural sensitivity, willingness to learn, empathy, flexibility, and respect for differences are key aspects of openness to others (Gile, 2009; Baker, 2018).

Cultural awareness, cooperation, adaptability, and continuous learning to promote openness to others should be emphasized in translator training programs (Basil, 1997; Mayer, 2004). Courses or workshops can be achieved to emphasize translation, languages, and cultural studies, as well as interaction with different cultures and communities (Routledge, 2006).

As it enables translators to understand enabling translators to understand nuances, terminology, and references, openness to others is crucial for effective translation, resulting in accurate and culturally appropriate translations (Hooren, 2021; Jackson, 2021). Moreover, it enhances cooperation, adaptability, and continuous learning. It enables translators to keep up with linguistic developments and global trends (Munday, 2016; Pingel, 2016).

### **4.Methodology**

Thematic analysis approach is used in this study used to explore the qualitative data collected from the translation tasks. With Zetzschei 's assumption (2012) in mind, three key themes connected to open-minded translation like cultural sensitivity, cooperation, and continuous learning are analyzed. A comparative analysis of translation tasks was conducted to

clarify these themes, in which translations produced with high and low levels of openness to others were evaluated and compared. This evaluation criteria involves Cultural sensitivity, accuracy, and fluency. The results revealed that translators, who have high levels of openness to others, provided translations that were more accurate, fluent, and culturally sensitive, showing a deeper understanding of the target audience and context.

### **5.Data Analysis**

Based on Zetzschei 's assumption (2012) that maintaining openness to others is a foundational quality that enables translators to bridge linguistic and cultural gaps. Opening to others and translation performance identified three themes in this study:

- Cultural Sensitivity: Translators' high levels of openness to others were more likely to take into account subtle cultural differences and context in their translations.
- Cooperation: Translators, who high levels of openness to others, were more likely to seek feedback and cooperate with others to develop their translations.
- Continuous Learning: Translators, who have high levels of openness to others, were more likely to seek out professional development and learning opportunities.

The investigation below clarifies how openness to others ability can develop translators' performance in translation tasks:

1.Source Text: "The company values diversity and inclusion."

Target Text (Low Openness): " شركة القيم المتنوعة والشمول."

Target Text (High Openness): "تعزيز شركة القيم المتنوعة والشمول والتسامح."

Analysis: Open to others translation takes into account the cultural nuances and context of the target audience, using more inclusive language and focusing the importance of difference and inclusion.

2. Source Text: "Welcome to our team!"

Target Text (Low Openness): "مرحبًا بكم في فريقنا."

Target Text (High Openness): "نرحب بكم بكل سرور في فريقنا، وننتقل إلى العمل معكم لتحقيق أهدافنا المشتركة."

Analysis: The translation, which has high openness to others, uses more welcoming language and focuses the importance of teamwork and shared goals.

3. Source Text: "Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns."

Target Text (Low Openness): "يرجى إعلامنا إذا كان لديك أي أسئلة أو استفسارات."

Target Text (High Openness): "نحن هنا لمساعدتك، فلا تتردد في التواصل معنا إذا كان لديك أي أسئلة أو مخاوف."

Analysis: The translation, which has high openness to others, uses more empathetic language and focuses the availability of support.

4. Source Text: "We value your feedback and suggestions."

Target Text (Low Openness): "نقدر ملاحظاتك واقتراحاتك."

Target Text (High Openness): "نحن نقدر تقدير كبير لملاحظاتك واقتراحاتك، ونرحب بكل فكرة أو تعليق يمكن أن يساعدنا في التحسين."

Analysis: The translations' high level of openness to others, uses more appreciative language and focuses the value of feedback and suggestions.

5. Source Text: "Please join us for the meeting on Friday at 2 PM."

Target Text (Low Openness): "يرجى حضور الاجتماع يوم الجمعة الساعة 2 مساءً."

Target Text (High Openness): "نرحب بكم في اجتماعنا يوم الجمعة الساعة 2 مساءً، وننتقل إلى مناقشة الأمور الهامة معكم."

Analysis: The translation's high level of openness to others, uses more inclusive language and focuses the importance of the meeting and the attendees.

6.Source Text: "Israel and the UAE agreed...that would put Israel Annexation of West Bank Lands on a hold as a condition of normalizing relationship."

Target Text (Low Openness):

"إسرائيل والإمارات العربية المتحدة اتفقتا... التي من شأنها أن تضع ضم إسرائيل لأراضي الضفة الغربية على الانتظار كشرط لتطبيع العلاقة."

Analysis: The translation of that would put...on a hold → تضع... على الانتظار

This directly mirrors the English structure and verb phrase. In Arabic, the natural collocation is *يوقف الضم* or *على الانتظار* sounds foreign and unidiomatic. The English relative clause *that would put...* is kept as *التي من تضع*..., which creates a heavy, clunky Arabic sentence. A high-openness translator would restructure it into a main clause: *وبموجبه يتوقف ضم* ...إسرائيل.... Incorrect collocation/terminology

تطبيع العلاقات instead of تطبيع العلاقة

“Normalizing relationship” in diplomatic Arabic is always plural: *تطبيع العلاقات*. Using the singular sounds unnatural and shows the translator didn't adapt to target audience conventions. The translator kept the passive, nominalized style of English: *وضع ضم إسرائيل*. In Arabic, a verbal construction *وقف الضم* is more fluent and typical of news Arabic.

This translation prioritizes matching the English form over making the text function naturally for an Arabic reader. It is accurate at the word level but fails in fluency and cultural/terminological fit, which is the hallmark of low openness to the target audience.

Target Text (High Openness):

"اتفقت إسرائيل والأمارات العربية المتحدة يوم الخميس على إنهاء عقود من العداء في اتفاق تاريخي أعلنه الرئيس ترامب والذي من شأنه ان يوقف ضم اسرائيل لأراضي الضفة الغربية كشرط لتطبيع العلاقات."

Analysis: the translation correctly renders “put on hold” as يوقف ضم. “Condition of normalizing relationship” → كشرط لتطبيع العلاقات is precise, uses natural Arabic syntax and connective الذي من شأنه أن. “Normalizing relationship” → تطبيع العلاقات is the standard term in Arab media/political discourse. The translator chose the term the target audience actually uses, adapted the awkward English structure into idiomatic Arabic without losing meaning.

7.Source Text: "But the larger aim of Kushner’s plan was always for Israel to forge new economic partnerships with many of its neighbors, especially Sunni Arab states that shares the US and Israeli view of Iran as an enemy."

Target Text (High Openness):

لكن الهدف الأكبر لخطة كوشنر كان دائماً أن تقوم إسرائيل بإقامة شراكات اقتصادية جديدة مع العديد من جيرانها، وخصوصاً الدول العربية السننية التي تشارك الولايات المتحدة وإسرائيل في اعتبار إيران عدواً.

Analysis: The translations' high level of openness to others, uses “Shares the view” → في اعتبار إيران عدواً... is correct. Note the typo in the source that shares that share was silently corrected. That shows professional judgment. تقوم إسرائيل بإقامة is a bit heavy. تقيم إسرائيل would be more concise. Still, it is acceptable, prioritized clarity over literalism, but could be more concise.

Target Text (Low Openness):

"لكن الهدف الأكبر لخطة كوشنر كان دائماً لأجل إسرائيل أن تصوغ شراكات اقتصادية جديدة مع العديد من جيرانها، وخصوصاً الدول العربية السننية التي تشارك الولايات المتحدة والرأي الإسرائيلي لإيران كعدو."

Analysis: The translation is literal of English structure "was always for Israel to forge" → كان دائماً لأجل إسرائيل أن تصوغ

This keeps the English infinitive structure and the awkward "for + subject + to" pattern. In natural Arabic, you'd restructure: كان هدف خطة كوشنر دائماً أن تقيم...إسرائيل

تقيم شراكات is a direct calque of "forge partnerships". In Arabic, تقيم شراكات or تبني شراكات is the standard collocation.

الرأي الإسرائيلي لإيران كعدو is a literal rendering of "Israeli view of Iran as an enemy". Natural Arabic would be اعتبار إيران عدواً من قبل الولايات المتحدة وإسرائيل or اتفاقهما على اعتبار إيران عدواً.

The phrase كان دائماً لأجل إسرائيل أن تصوغ is overly literal and formal in a way that feels translated. High openness would use the more concise أن تقيم إسرائيل.

This rendering is word-for-word, keeps English word order and idioms, and ignores Arabic collocations and fluency conventions. It communicates the literal meaning but reads as awkward and foreign to an Arabic reader the note of low openness to the target audience and context.

8.Source Text: "UAE Officials said they were motivated to make the bold stroke in part because Israel's move to Annex Swaths of the West Bank through Upend Decades of Hope That the Palestinians Would Eventually Gain Sovereignty Over Their Own Territory."

"قال مسؤولون اماراتيون ان دافعهم لاتخاذ هذه الخطوة الجريئة يعود جزئيا الى ان تحرك اسرائيل لضم اجزاء من الضفة الغربية يهدد بتقويض عقود من الأمل في أن يحصل الفلسطينيون في نهاية المطاف على السيادة على أراضيهم."

Target Text (High openness):

"Upend decades of hope" → captures the threat and the verb meaning. يهدد بتقويض عقود من الأمل في are common in Arabic. Chose اجزاء instead of swaths, avoiding an English loan-image that would sound odd in Arabic, Understanding the nuance and used register appropriate for Arab news outlets.

Target Text (Low Openness):

مسؤولو الإمارات قالوا إنهم كانوا محفزين لعمل الضربة الجريئة جزئياً لأن تحرك إسرائيل لضم مساحات واسعة من الضفة الغربية عبر يقلب عقود من الأمل أن الفلسطينيين سوف في النهاية يكسبون السيادة على أراضيهم الخاصة.

"Make the bold stroke" → عمل الضربة الجريئة: A direct translation of "make a bold stroke." In Arabic political discourse, the idiom is اتخاذ خطوة جريئة or عمل الضربة الإقدام على خطوة جريئة. sounds like a literal, awkward rendering.

"Through Upend" → عبر يقلب: "Through" is rendered literally as عبر, and "upend" as يقلب without adjusting for Arabic verb-subject agreement and sentence flow. Natural Arabic would use الذي يهدد بتقويض. The English clause That the Palestinians Would Eventually Gain Sovereignty is kept as

أن الفلسطينيين سوف في النهاية يكسبون السيادة.

This preserves the English word order, placing سوف and في النهاية unnaturally.

High openness would restructure it as أن يحصل الفلسطينيون في نهاية المطاف على السيادة.

أسعة for "swaths": Literal and clunky. The standard term in Arabic news is أجزاء واسعة or أجزاء.

"Gain" → يكسبون is a direct rendering. The idiomatic term is ينالون السيادة or يحصلون على السيادة.

"Their own territory" → أراضيهم الخاصة: is redundant and sounds like a language translation.

The translator mirrors the English run-on sentence without breaking it into Arabic-appropriate clauses. The result is long, dense, and hard to parse for an Arabic reader.

This translation prioritizes word-for-word equivalence over target-language fluency and cultural conventions. It keeps English idioms, syntax, and word order, producing text that is technically understandable but unnatural and foreign-sounding. That is the note of low openness to the target audience and context.

The results given revealed that translators, who have high levels of openness to others, provided translations that were more accurate, fluent, and culturally sensitive, showing a deeper understanding of the target audience and context.

## **6-Conclusion**

The study concludes that openness to others quality is crucial for effective translation. Resulting in accurate and culturally relevant translations, this quality enables translators to understand cultural nuances, terminology, and references. By developing this quality, translators can become effective cultural ambassadors, contributing to fostering understanding and appreciation between different communities. Thus, translator training programs should provide competent translators capable of dealing with the translation complexities in a globalized world. They should include cultural awareness, cooperation, and continuous learning to provide competent translators who can produce high quality performance. Therefore, it is recommended that translation students should be trained to focus on developing openness to others so that they become effective cultural ambassadors who contribute to developing understanding and appreciation between different communities and being able to produce high quality outcomes.

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يُعدّ تمكين المترجمين من تجاوز الاختلافات الثقافية واللغوية سمةً أساسيةً لهم. تتناول هذه الدراسة أهمية الانفتاح على الآخرين بالنسبة للمترجمين، وتبحث في كيفية دمج برامج تدريب المترجمين لهذه السمة لدعم أدائهم. ويكشف استعراض مهام المترجمين أن الانفتاح على الآخرين يُثري بشكلٍ ملحوظ القدرات التواصلية بين الثقافات، والحساسية الثقافية، والتعاون. وتنطلق هذه الدراسة من فرضية زيتزشاي (2012) التي تُشير إلى أن الانفتاح على الآخرين سمةً جوهريةً تُمكن المترجمين من تجاوز

الفجوات اللغوية والثقافية. وتقتصر النتائج أن تُركّز برامج تدريب المترجمين على الوعي الثقافي، والتعاون، والتعلم المستمر لتخريج مترجمين أكفاء. وتكشف أن المترجمين الذين يتمتعون بمستويات عالية من الانفتاح على الآخرين قدموا ترجمات أكثر دقة وطلاقة وحساسية ثقافية، مما يدل على فهم أعمق للجمهور المستهدف والسياق. على الصعيد التربوي، يُوصى بتدريب طلاب الترجمة على التأكيد على الانفتاح على الآخرين ليصبحوا سفراء ثقافيين فاعلين، يُسهّمون في تعزيز التفاهم والتقدير بين مختلف المجتمعات..

الكلمات المفتاحية: قدرات المترجمين، الانفتاح على الآخرين، أداء الترجمة، تدريب المترجمين، كفاءة الترجمة