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Rana Sameer Abdulrahman

Department of English- College of Education for Women- University of Baghdad- Iraq,
rana.s@coeduw.uobaghdad.edu.iq

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Translation Assessment of the Conditional Sentences in “The Dream of a Ridiculous Man” Story by Dostoevsky

Rana Sameer Abdulrahman

Department of English- College of Education for Women- University of Baghdad- Iraq

ABSTRACT

“*The Dream of a Ridiculous Man*” is a short story written by Fyodor Dostoevsky in 1877. This story is full of deep meanings about love, misery, responsibility and selfishness, and it is full of various grammatical structures. Due to its importance as an emotional story and as a literary text, it has been analyzed by a number of critics and researchers. Similarly, the translation is as important as its language, and it needs to be assessed systematically. The significance of the study is to identify whether the translator is familiar with the structure of Arabic conditional sentences and that he translates the English ones accurately. The problem is that there are several tenses expressed through the conditional cases in English which need to be translated accurately. This paper aims to analyze the Arabic translation of English conditional sentences in this story to distinguish between the real conditional situation used by the protagonist, who is suffering from psychological conflicts, and the other two hypothetical conditional situations. Quantitative and qualitative approaches are used to analyze the collected data. It has been concluded that the translator has succeeded in translating most of the conditional sentences into Arabic. Nonetheless, he could not translate the conditional particle “if” properly.

Keywords: Conditional Sentences in Arabic, Conditional Sentences in English, the Dream of a Ridiculous Man, Translation Assessment.

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Corresponding author: Rana Sameer Abdulrahman
E-mail address: rana.s@coeduw.uobaghdad.edu.iq

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1. Introduction

The descriptive studies done by linguists have shown that every distinctive human language has its technique in forming conditional sentences and that conditionals do exist in many languages (Al-Maryani, 2011, p.1). The condition in general is a “process fixed by linguistic rules” (Abdul-Jabar & Abdul-Majeed, 2009, p. 672). Nevertheless, the ways of expressing conditional sentences in English are different from those in Arabic. So, to translate a text from English into Arabic or to make a translation assessment of the translated conditionals, the translators have to know the particular structures indicating the condition in English and then to translate them into their equivalent structures in Arabic (Al-Maryani, 2011, p.1). To understand the meaning of a text in natural languages, two dissimilar principles are used (Sultany, 2019, p.34), since the syntax text aims to comprehend the syntactic interconnections of a solo sentence into a longer or shorter chain of sentences that create a specific text, (Aldeen, 2021, p. 48).

Conditional sentences are one of the most important patterns in some languages. They have been used to refer to a number of sentence types, since the structure of the sentence does not always provide us with complete information about the grammatical relations (Ahmed, 2020, p.246). Sometimes they are used as “*assumption concepts*” that include all cases of delaying a sentence. Sometimes they are used interchangeably with a particular kind of “*sentence deferment*”, (Pasaribu et al., 2024, p. 1).

The significance of the study is to identify whether the translator is familiar with the structure of Arabic conditional sentences and that he translates the English conditional sentences accurately.

The objectives are to precisely analyze the Arabic translation of English conditional sentences in “The Dream of a Ridiculous Man” story to distinguish between the real conditional situation used by the protagonist, who is suffering from psychological conflicts, and the other two hypothetical conditional situations.

The Problem

The problem is that there are several tenses expressed through the conditional cases in English which need to be translated accurately into Arabic.

The Research Questions

This paper aims to identify the following:

Does the translator translate the conditional sentences in “The Dream of a Ridiculous Man” accurately?

Are the conditional sentences translated properly into their Arabic counterparts?

Limits of the Study:

The scope of this research paper is limited to sixteen papers of “The Dream of a Ridiculous Man” short story written by Fyodor Dostoevsky in (1877).

Quantitative and qualitative approaches are used to analyze the collected data.

2. Theoretical Part

1.1 Key words

Conditional Sentences in English

Conditional sentences are used to express the cause and effect of the two events. The conditional sentence has two clauses: the conditional clause and the subsequent clause which depend on each other, i.e. if clause and the main clause. It describes the condition which is necessary for a specific result to occur. The conjunctions used in conditional sentences are: *if, unless, if only, if then, when* and *even if*. It is noticeable that the meaning of the conditional sentence determines the verb tense used in the independent and subordinate clause, (Pasaribu et al., 2024, p.2).

2.1.1.1 Types of Conditional Sentences in English

The experts of linguistics have classified the conditional sentences into many types. In general, there are three types of conditional sentences, but most grammarians tend to distinguish four basic shapes of tenses in conditional sentences which differ in structure according to the time of talking (present, future or past) and their meaning. These four types are usually referred to as the zero, first condition, second condition and third condition. The conditional sentence has two parts: the if clause and the main clause (Pasaribu et al., 2024, p.2). For example, in the sentence “*If he studies hard, he will pass the exam*”, “*if he studies hard*” is the if-clause and “*he will pass the exam*” is the main clause. The following are the main types of conditional sentences according to Pasaribu et al. (2024, pp.2-5):

Zero (0) Conditional

This type is used with scientific facts or general truths. Here, “If” can be substituted with “when”. For examples:

- a) “If he boils water to 100°C, it boils”
- b) “When you boil water to 100°C, it boils”.
- c) “If you make a promise, keep it”.

2. First Conditional

This type is used for a probable future result. Its form is:

If + present simple, will + infinitive (base verb)

For examples:

- a) "If you study hard, your English will improve".
- b) "If I get enough sleep, I will feel better".
- c) "We'll miss the train If we don't leave soon".

3. Second Conditional

This type is used for imaginary, impossible or unreal future situations. Its form is:

If + past simple, modal (would, could) + base verb

For example:

- a) "If I won the lottery, I would buy a mansion".
- b) "They wouldn't finish in time unless everyone worked faster".
- c) "You'd get fatter if you ate too much".
- d) "If I went to London, I could visit the British Museum".

4. Third Conditional

This type is usually called "a past regret" about something which did not happen in the past. Its form is: If + past perfect (had + pp.), ({would, should, could, might} have) + past participle (pp)

For examples:

- a) "If we'd taken the first turn, we would have been at home by now".
- b) "If I hadn't tripped, I would have won the race".
- c) "If you had slept early, you wouldn't have had a headache".

5. A mixed type of conditional sentence.

Its form is: if + past perfect, present conditional verb

For example:

"If I had learned to ride earlier, I would be a big rodeo star by now".

Note that the past perfect verb is used in the if-clause, and the present conditional verb is used in the main clause.

6. An exceptional Rule.

This type is a grammatical feature in English that is used for expressing imaginative situations, proposals, wishes or suggestions.

Its form is: if + pronouns + were, modal (would, could) + base verb

For example: "If I were a bird, I would fly over the trees".

2.1.2 Conditional Sentences in Arabic

2.1.2.1 Types of Conditional Sentences in Arabic

The grammarians state that conditional sentences in Arabic are consisted of two parts; the first part is called جملة الشرط (the conditional clause) which includes أداة الشرط (the conditional particle) and the second part provides the result of the condition and it is called جواب الشرط (the answer of conditional clause) (Al-Maryani, 2011, p.6). There are two types of particles which are generally viewed as conditionals: أدوات الشرط الجازمة (the jussive conditional particles) which involve: إن، من، ما، مهما، أي، متى، أيا، أين، اذما، أني، كان. The other particles are: أدوات الشرط غير الجازمة (the non-jussive conditional particles) which involve: لو، لوما، لولا، أذا، كيفما، (Al-Maryani, 2011, p.6). Accordingly, some Arabic examples are stated with their standard translations:

”إن تأخرت فلن تصل في الموعد“.

“If you were late, you would not reach on time”.

”من يدرس ينجح“.

“Who studies succeeds”.

”ما تزرع تحصد“.

“What you sow, you reap”.

Haza' Al Rdaat and Gardner (2017, p.1) emphasize that there are only two types of Arabic conditional; the first one is the “*real conditional*”, which includes the fulfilled conditions and uses two particles (“in” إن and “ithaa” اذا), while the second one is the “*unreal conditional*”, which includes the unfulfilled conditional and uses the particle “lau” لو.

Al-Maryani (2011, p.6) also confirms that there are three main particles to indicate if- clause; (إن، اذا، لو) which in turn have different distinctive meanings and uses. For example,

(لو) it refers to something which is unreal, impossible or contrary to fact, as in (*If I were you*). It can be in the past, present or future (Hammadi, 2019, p. 111). For example, “*if Mary had studied, she would have succeeded*” لو درست ماري لنجحت.

(إن) it indicates conditional if-clause without referring to possibilities. For example, “*if he studied, he will succeed*” ان درس نجح.

(اذا) it shows some degree of possibility just like when or whenever. For example, “*if we go by train, we shall be late*” اذا ذهبنا بالقطار فسنأخر.

Also, there are some other conditional particles which are called “asmaa'u š-šarti l-jazima” أسماء الشرط الجازمة; ما، مهما، من، متى، أيا، اذما، حيثما، كيفما (Al-Maryani, 2011, p.6).

Hammadi (2019, p. 111) states that the conditional verb in Arabic could come independently from the result or it comes after just like in English and also it could have: حتى، الآ، و. For example,

”Come to the office Munday, **if** you want to”
 ”:سأذهبُ الى المتحف إذا زُرْتُ فرنسا”
 ”لَنْ يُسَمَّحَ لَكَ بالسَّفرِ إلَّا إذا اكملتَ دراستك”
 you finish your study”.

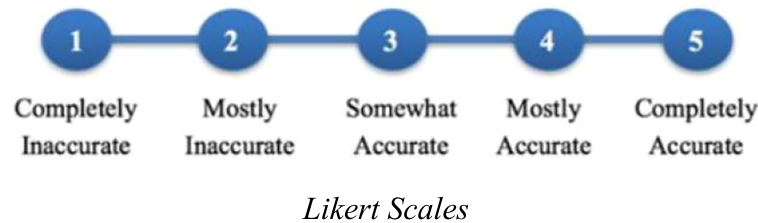
2.2 Translation Assessment

Translation is a complex linguistic, cognitive, cultural and social process; defining the translation process and assessing the quality of its results in turn reflect this complexity. Translation quality assessment is a type of “evaluation”, according to Williams (2009, p.4) evaluation “is used to mean value, or worth and the determination of merit”. This definition in turn reflects a difficulty; what is the definition of value or worth? Is it aesthetic, moral or utilitarian? Evaluation involves asking a question that creates a challenge to thinkers for a long time; “*Is a particular thing good?*” So, the definitions of translation quality attempt to apprehend translation dimensions to develop a means of formally assessing translation quality for a certain purpose (Moorkens et al., 2018, p.10).

Approaches and practices in translation quality assessment or as it is called translation assessment tend to diverge at both the macro and micro level, as the meaning of quality can differ greatly for different persons, groups, and contexts (Moorkens et al., 2018, p.11). Further variable factors are added such as the nature and the purpose of an evaluation are expected to be changed depending on whether this evaluation takes place as part of a “production process of a research study”. In research, the objective of TA is to gain a measure that can display an obvious change in quality, most usually “an improvement”, from former work or between diverse translation processes (Moorkens et al., 2018, p.11).

2.2.1 Measures of Translation Assessment

The criteria used in translation assessment has an important role in describing the translation process, as the evaluation includes different aspects such as evaluating the degree of equivalence of the translation with the original text, as well as the translation assessment may be used to measure the degree of difficulty of the issues solved by the translator while achieving equivalence and the steps followed by the translator in solving those issues, which indicates the translator’s skill, (Shahdha, 2018, p. 148). There are a range of measures for translation quality assessment (TQA) made by humans in research and in industry as well; these measures or scenarios are mostly carried out to assess adequacy and fluency, while the secondary measures are employed to assess the readability, usability, acceptability of translation and comprehensibility (Moorkens et al., 2018, p.17).

Figure (1): Logical assessment of adequacy and fluency by using (ordinal scales)

Note. From Translation quality assessment (p.18) by [Moorkens et al., 2018](#)

A). As related to adequacy which is also called fidelity or accuracy in certain studies related to translation, is typically defined as “*the extent to which the translation transfers the meaning of the source language unit into the target language counterpart*”. Adequacy judgments are often used in conjunction with those relating to fluency. **B).** Fluency emphasizes on the target text and it is precisely defined as “*the extent to which the translation follows the norms and rules of the target language*”. Some scholars state that fluency is affected by mistranslations, grammatical errors and untranslated words, i.e. incorrect pronouns or punctuation and inconsistent prepositions. ([Moorkens et al., 2018, p.18](#)). Adequacy and fluency are logically assessed by using (ordinal scales) in the form of Likert scales ([Figure1](#)). This assessment is conducted at the sentence (or segments of the sentence) level, without considering context ([Moorkens et al., 2018, p.18](#)). **C).** Readability is well established with the related measures to express the features of the linguistic complexity of a specific text in a particular language that make it appropriate for “the intended readers of a certain age or a level of formal education”. Generally, readability is related to the easiness with which a certain text can be read by one person or more persons. There are a number of measures related to readability which are based on some linguistic features, i.e. sentence length, word frequency in addition to extra-linguistic features such as spacing and formatting, ([Moorkens et al., 2018, p.19](#)). **D).** Comprehensibility represents a characteristic of the source text or target text which shows how it is understandable for a reader. So, while readability is fundamentally dependent on the text itself, comprehensibility can vary depending on the reader of the text, i.e. his/her degree of education and familiarity with reading certain types of texts, ([Moorkens et al., 2018, p.19](#)). **E).** Acceptability concerns “*the text receivers’ attitude that create a cohesive and coherent text having some use or relevance for the receivers, for example, to acquire knowledge or provide cooperation in a proposal*”, and such attitudes of the text users “include some tolerate to disorder of cohesion or coherence, provided that the purposeful nature of the communication is maintained” ([Moorkens et al., 2018, pp. 20-21](#)).

2.3 Related Works

As related to the previous studies, some researchers have written papers analyze this short story as a literary work in his study “Christian apatheia in Dostoevsky’s ‘dream of a ridiculous man’”, Denis Crnković (2012) states that this story has been viewed as a story of the understanding of “the inner selves evil or goodness of punishment or of redemption”. His paper shows that Dostoevsky’s familiarity with “the Greek Patristic writings” affects his writing that using ideological, verbal and contextual references in this short story, makes the protagonist take his life to an ideal end despites his confusing and unclear beginning. Also, the frequent repetition of the expression “*nothing mattered*” by the narrator reflects his adoption to apatheia. To the “*Greek Fathers*”, the ability to remain unaffected by unnecessary earthly emotions was the start of the receiving of “*agape*”, i.e. (the ideal of Christian love). Therefore, the ridiculous man’s ultimate realization that the only order that matters is “*to love thy neighbor*”, evidently shows that he adopts “the doctrine of the Patristic conception of Christian charity” that makes the ridiculous man’s story follows the same spiritual journey in accepting and practicing “*Christian charity*”.

Ahmad et al. (2021), explore in their paper the impacts of the philosophy of absurdism and nihilism in “*The Dream of a Ridiculous Man*” short story which was originally written in Russian. This study is based on the idea that “this universe is a meaningless entity and without any true meaning”. Nevertheless, one must not inculcate in mind the thoughts of suicide. Through his dream, which was just like a miracle, the ridiculous man has understood the lesson of life which makes him face his psychological conflicts, replacing his pessimistic thoughts with optimistic ones and prevent him from committing suicide. It has been concluded that Dostoevsky has viewed the positive and negative characteristics of the ridiculous man, which leave the audience in a vague condition that they cannot conclude whether he is a good or a bad man. Though, it gives the audience a deep perception into “the psyche of a nihilist” and discovers the darkest part of his mind.

3. Data Selection

Quantitative and qualitative approaches are used in this paper to analyze the collected data. The data to be analyzed are fifteen English conditional sentences collected from sixteen papers of the English version of “*The Dream of a Ridiculous Man*” short story written by Fyodor Dostoevsky (1877) with their Arabic translated counterpart. The selected sentences are chosen to make sure that the translated sentences represent the exact conditional case of the original sentences by making a comparison between each English sentence and its

Arabic translation, and that they embody the proper meaning according to the measures of translation assessment.

To analyze the translated conditional sentences, the researcher has made two tables; [table \(1\)](#) shows whether the English conditional sentences are translated into Arabic ones in or not, and [table \(2\)](#) shows the required measures to fulfill the translation assessment.

Table (1): “Shows the comparison between the English conditional sentences and the Arabic translations of these sentences”

S	English Conditional Sentence	Arabic Translation	Conditional/ Unconditional
1.	“That would be a promotion <u>if</u> it were not that I remain as ridiculous in their eyes as before” (1916, p. 1).	“وقد كَانَ مِنْ شَأْنِ هَذَا النِّعَةِ أَنْ يَكُونَ رَفْعًا مِنْ قَدْرِي لَوْ أَنَّهُمْ تَرَاوَعُوا عَنْ اعْتِبَارِي مُضْحَكًا” (2020، ص: 5).	Conditional
2.	“I could join in their laughter--not exactly at myself, but through affection for them, <u>if</u> I did not feel so sad as I look at them” (1916, p.1).	“وَلَوْ لَمْ أَكُنْ شَدِيدَ الْحُزَنِ وَأَنَا أَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِمْ لَضَحَكْتُ مَعَهُمْ - لَيْسَ عَلَى نَفْسِي بِالطَّبْعِ، وَلَكِنْ لِكِي أُسْرِي عَنْهُمْ” (2020، ص: 5).	Conditional
3.	“ <u>If</u> there were one man on earth who knew better than anybody else that I was absurd, it was myself” (1916, p. 1).	“إِنْ كَانَ ثَمَّةٌ مِنْ يَدْرُكُ أَكْثَرَ مِنَ الْجَمِيعِ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ كَمْ أَنَا مُضْحَكٌ فَهَذَا الشَّخْصُ هُوَ أَنَا بِالذَّاتِ” (2020، ص: 6).	Conditional
4.	“ <u>If</u> it had happened that I allowed myself to confess to anyone that I was ridiculous, I believe that I should have blown out my brains the same evening” (1916, p, 1).	“وَلَوْ حَدَثَ فِي يَوْمٍ مِنَ الْأَيَّامِ أَنْ اضْطَرَرْتُ لِلْاعْتِرَافِ بِأَنِّي مُضْحَكٌ أَمَامَ شَخْصٍ مَا لَهَشْتُ جَمِيعَتِي بِطَلْقَةٍ مُسَدَّسٍ فِي مَسَاءِ الْيَوْمِ ذَاتِهِ” (2020، ص: 6).	Conditional
5.	“ <u>If</u> all the street lamps had been put out it would have been less cheerless, that the gas made one's heart sadder because it lighted it all up” (1916, p,2).	“إِنَّ انْطِفَاءَ مَصَابِيحِ الْغَازِ كُلِّهَا سَيَبْعَثُ الْفَرَحَ، لِأَنَّهَا عَلَى هَذِهِ الصُّورَةِ تَضِي وتُظهِرُ كُلَّ هَذَا الْحُزَنِ” (2020، ص: 8).	Unconditional
6.	“ <u>If</u> anyone had stuck me it would have hurt me” (p. 4).	“فَلَوْ ضَرَبَنِي شَخْصٌ مَا لَشَعَرْتُ بِالْأَلَمِ” (ص: 11).	Conditional
7.	“ <u>If</u> anything very pathetic happened, I should have felt pity” (1916, p,4).	“فَحِينَ يَحْدُثُ شَيْءٌ مُحْزِنٌ جَدًّا، أَشْعُرُ بِحُزْنٍ عَمِيقٍ” (2020، ص: 11).	Conditional

8.	“ If I were going to make an end of myself that night, nothing in life ought to have mattered to me” (1916, p.4).	“ما دمتُ سأنهي حياتي الليلة، فالأولى أن أصبح أقلَّ اهتماماً بالدُّنيا في هذه اللحظاتِ أكثرَ مما كنتُ في أي وقتٍ مضى” (2020، ص:12).	Conditional
9.	“ If I shot myself the world would cease to be at least for me” (1916, p.5).	“فيكفي أن أطلق النارَ عليّ حتى يختفي العالمُ ولا يعودُ موجوداً، على الأقل بالنسبة لي” (2020، ص:14).	Unconditional
10.	“ If I have got to exist again,” I thought, “and live once more under the control of some irresistible power, I won’t be vanquished and humiliated” (1916, p.8).	“إذا كان لا بد أن أوجدَ ثانيةً - (فكرتُ)- بإرادةٍ أحدٍ ما فأني لن أكون مغلوباً ومُذلاً” (2020، ص:21).	Conditional
11.	“And if that is an earth there, can it be just the same earth as ours” (1916, p. 8).	“وإن كانت تلك هي الأرض، فهل هي أرضٌ كأرضنا تماماً” (2020، ص:22).	Conditional
12.	“ If it could have happened that they had returned to the innocent and happy condition which they had lost, and if someone had shown it to them again and had asked them whether they wanted to go back to it, they would certainly have refused” (1916, p, 14).	“لو كان باستطاعتهم العودة إلى تلك الحالة من البراءة والسعادة التي فقدوها، وتمكّن أحد ما من وضع تلك الحالة أمامهم وسألهم: هل يرغبون بالعودة إليها؟ لأجابوا أغلب الظنّ بالرفض” (2020، ص:33).	Conditional
13.	“They should lock me up in a mad-house if I did not hold my tongue” (1916, p.15).	“سيحبسونني في بيت المجانين، إن لم اصمت” (2020، ص:36).	Conditional
14.	“I will go on and on if it were for a thousand years” (1916, p.16).	“سأمضي وأمشي ولو ألف سنة” (2020، ص:39).	Conditional
15.	“ If only everyone wants it, it can be arranged at once” (1916, p.16).	“ما إن يرغب الجميع في شيء حتى يتحقق من لحظتها” (2020، ص:40).	Conditional

In [table \(2\)](#), the researcher tries to check the achieved measures of translation assessment in the Arabic translations of the English conditional sentences. The main measures (adequacy and fluency) are assessed by using Likert scales, while the other three secondary measures are assessed by putting the sign (✓) under the fulfilled measure and putting (✗) under the unfulfilled one as follows:

Table (2): Shows the five measures of translation assessment made by the researcher

S	Arabic Translation	Adequacy	Fluency	Readability	Comprehensibility	Acceptability
1	“وقد كان من شأن هذا النعت أن يكون رفعاً من قَدري لو أنهم تراجعوا عن اعتباري مضحكا”.	Mostly accurate	Somewhat accurate	✓	✓	✗
2	“ولو لم أكن شديد الحزن وأنا أنظر إليهم لضحكت معهم - ليس على نفسي بالطبع - ولكن لكي أُسري عنهم”.	Completely accurate	Completely accurate	✓	✓	✓
3	“إن كان ثمة من يدرك أكثر من الجميع على الأرض كم أنا مضحك فهذا الشخص هو أنا بالذات”.	Completely accurate	Mostly accurate	✓	✗	✗
4	“ولو حدث في يوم من الأيام أن اضطررت للاعتراف بأنني مضحك أمام شخص ما لهشمت جمجمتي بطلقة مسدس في مساء اليوم ذاته”.	Mostly accurate	Completely accurate	✓	✓	✓
5	“إن انطفاء مصابيح الغاز كلها سيبعثُ الفرح، لأنها على هذه الصورة تضئ وتظهر كل هذا الحزن”.	Mostly accurate	Mostly accurate	✓	✗	✗
6	“فلو ضربني شخص ما لشعرتُ بالألم”.	Completely accurate	Completely accurate	✓	✓	✓
7	“فحين يحدث شيء محزن جداً، أشعرُ بحزن عميق”.	Completely accurate	Completely accurate	✓	✓	✓
8	“ما دمتُ سأنهي حياتي الليلة فالأولى أن أصبح أقل اهتماماً بالدنيا في هذه اللحظات أكثر مما كنتُ في أي وقت مضى”.	Mostly accurate	Mostly accurate	✓	✓	✓
9	“فيكفي أن أطلق النار علي حتى يختفي العالم ولا يعود موجوداً، على الأقل بالنسبة لي”.	Completely accurate	Mostly accurate	✓	✓	✓
10	“إذا كان لا بد أن أوجدَ ثانيةً - (فكرتُ) - بإرادة أحد ما فأني لن أكون مغلوباً ومُذلاً”.	Mostly accurate	Mostly accurate	✓	✗	✗

11	“وإن كانت تلك هي الأرض، فهل هي أرض كأرضنا تماماً.” “لو كان باستطاعتهم العودة إلى تلك الحالة من البراءة والسعادة التي فقدوها، وتمكن أحد ما من وضع تلك الحالة امامهم وسألهم: هل يرغبون بالعودة إليها؟ لأجابوا أغلب الظن بالرفض.”	Completely accurate	Completely accurate	✓	✓	✓
12	“سيحبسونني في بيت المجانين، إن لم اصمت.”	Completely accurate	Completely accurate	✓	✓	✓
13	“سأمضي وامشي ولو ألف سنة.”	Completely accurate	Completely accurate	✓	✓	✓
14	“ما إن يرغب الجميع في شيء حتى يتحقق من لحظتها.”	Completely accurate	Completely accurate	✓	✓	✓
15						

4. Findings and Discussions

According to [table \(1\)](#) mentioned above, the researcher tries to analyze the Arabic translated sentences to make sure whether they are translated into conditional sentences or not and if they fulfill the exact meaning and time of the original sentences through translation. The researcher tries to find out whether “if” is translated into a proper Arabic particle as well.

As related to the 1st sentence which represents the exceptional type of condition, the translator has succeeded in translating it into an Arabic conditional sentence with a proper particle, i.e. “لو” which is used in an imaginative situation. The translator has also translated the 2nd sentence successfully into Arabic conditional sentence with “لو” as a proper particle to the second type of English conditional sentence. The 3rd English sentence represents the second unreal type of conditional clauses which is translated correctly, but the translator has used the Arabic particle (إن) instead of (لو). The translation of the 4th sentence fulfills both a proper translation and a proper translated particle.

On the other hand, the translator has failed in translating the 5th sentence into Arabic conditional sentence. Instead, the researcher suggests the following translation:

“لو تم إطفاء جميع مصابيح الشارع لكان الأمر أقل كآبة لأن المصابيح المضيئة تنير كل شيء فتجعل القلب يزداد حزناً.”

In translating sentence number 6, the translator has displayed the exact meaning of condition in Arabic, while in the 7th sentence, he could not provide the reader neither the precise time nor the proper conditional particle “لو”

during translation since he did not translate this sentence as a conditional one. The researcher, on her part, tries to give an alternative translation to this sentence as:

«لو حدثَ شيئاً مُحزناً للغاية لشَعَرْتُ بالأسَى».

The same thing happened with the 8th sentence when the translator did not translate it properly nor he chose the proper conditional particle which should be “لو” instead of “ما”. The researcher suggests another translation to this sentence as:

«لعلِّي أفضل أن أكون أقل اهتماماً بهذه اللحظات التي طالما أحببتها إذا ما أقدمتُ على إنهاء حياتي هذه الليلة».

The sentence number nine was translated as a narrative sentence that the researcher suggests an appropriate translation to this conditional sentence as:

«سيختفي العالم بالنسبة لي لو أطلقتُ النار على نفسي».

The 10th sentence represents an imaginative situation of the conditional sentence in the past participle that “if” should be translated into “لو” not “إذا” as the translator did in his translation. Therefore, an alternative translation is suggested by the researcher:

«فكرتُ أنه لو كان لا بدَّ أن أعودَ للوجود وأن أعيشَ مرةً أخرى تحتَ نفوذِ سُلطة لا تقاوم، لن أكونَ ذليلاً أو مهاناً».

The translation of the 11th sentence as a conditional sentence and the particle “إن” used in the Arabic sentence are valid to this real conditional situation. In the 12th sentence, the translator has succeeded in rendering the conditional situation into its Arabic counterpart, however, he has translated only one conditional particle (if), and has ignored the second (if) in spite of that he has chosen the correct Arabic particle (لو) through translation. The conditional situation in the 13th sentence is an imaginative case, therefore, the translator should have translated (if) into (لو) that the translation will be:

«كانُوا سيحبسونني في مُستشفى المجانين لو لم ألزِم الصمت».

As related to the last two sentences, the translator has succeeded in translating them into conditional ones.

Table (2) shows another level of assessment related to measures of translation assessment. Here, the researcher tries to assess each translated sentence according to these main and secondary measures. As related to adequacy, most of the translated units in the sentences represent the original units of the English sentences. The translations of the sentences (1, 4, 5, 8, 10) are mostly accurate because the translator has added a word or words to the translated versions which make them not comply with the source texts. For example, in the 1st sentence the translator has translated the word (*promotion*) into من شأن هذا النعت أن يكون رفعاً من قَدري. In the 4th sentence, the translator has added in translation the sentence حدثَ في يوم من الأيام for the original word (*happened*). The translator has also made some changes in the 5th sentence when he has translated the word (*the gas*) into على هذه الصورة and when he did not translate (if)

into a suitable conditional sentence. He has added the expression *في هذه اللحظات* *في هذه اللحظات* to the translation which is originally not founded in the 8th English sentence. He has omitted some units from the 10th sentence when he did not translate the expression (*and live once more*). The other ten translated sentences are completely accurate.

The second main assessment measure is fluency. The 1st sentence is somewhat accurate due to this translated part *وقد كان من شأن هذا النعت أن يكون رفعاً من قَدري* which is not follow the rules in Arabic. The sentences (3, 5, 8, 9, 10) are mostly accurate because of some words or parts of sentences which are not found in the Arabic grammatical or syntactic structure. In the 3rd sentence, there is a mistake in the translated structure *إن كان ثمة من يدرك أكثر من الجميع على الأرض* which does not follow the Arabic rules. Instead, it could be translated as *إن كان هناك رجل واحد على وجه الأرض*.

In the 5th sentence, the conditional particle (if) is mistranslated into assertion particle (*إنَّ*), and the expression (*less cheerless*) which translated into *أقل كآبة* does not have the same accurate meaning as *فرح*. The particle (if) in the 8th sentence is mistranslated into (*ما*) and (*that night*) is mistranslated into *الليلة*. The first part of the 9th sentence; (*if I shot*) is mistranslated into *فيكفي أن أطلق النارَ* when (if) is translated into *فيكفي* and the past verb (shot) is translated in Arabic into present *أطلق النار*. The 10th sentence is mistranslated, since the translator should have translated (if) into (*لو*) not into (*إذا*). He also should have translated “*I have got to exist again and live once more*” into *كان لا بدَّ أن أعيش مرةً وأن أعود للوجود* since Arabic uses repetition. Nevertheless, the translator has ignored the second part “*and live once more*” and he did not even translate it. Instead, he has mistranslated “*I have got to exist again*” into *كان لا بدَّ أن أوجدَ ثانيةً* in which Arabic does not use such an expression. The other sentences are completely accurate.

As related to the secondary measures, all the fifteen translated sentences are read easily by target readers since the translator has succeeded in translating the complex and long sentences. Comprehensibility is fulfilled in twelve translated sentences when the translator has made his efforts to make these sentences understood by the readers. However, the translator could not handle the comprehensibility of three translated sentences; (3, 5, 10) when he could not solve the puzzle of the exact meaning of these three sentences.

Finally, acceptability which is related to cohesion and coherence of the sentence is the third secondary measure of assessment. The translator has failed in producing four acceptable translated sentences, i.e. (1, 3, 5, 10) either as related to external grammatical links or those related to internal and cognitive features of understanding the text. In the 1st sentence, the problem is related to cohesion and coherence, the 3rd sentence represents a cohesive problem, the 5th sentence embodies a coherent problem and the last 10th sentence shows cohesive and coherent problems related to acceptability.

Conclusions

According to the results and discussions, it has been concluded:

- 1- The translator has succeeded in translating most of the conditional sentences into Arabic.
- 2- The translator could not translate the conditional particle “if” properly into its Arabic counterpart in most sentences. He could not differentiate between the real and unreal conditional situations through translation.
- 3- In spite of succeeding in conveying the meaning of the conditional sentences into Arabic, the translator has chosen unconditional particles in some cases like *فحينَ، فيكفي، ما ان*.
- 4- The main measures of translation assessment are fulfilled accurately in the translated sentences.
- 5- Although all the translated sentences were readable, nonetheless, some of them were comprehensible and acceptable as translated versions.

Conflict of Interest

The author declare that they have no financial or personal conflicts of interest that could have potentially influenced the work reported in this study.

Author Contribution

Rana Sameer Abdulrahman: conducted all aspects of the research, including conceptualization, methodology, data collection, formal analysis, interpretation of results, and writing – original draft preparation, as well as reviewing and editing the final manuscript.

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تقييم ترجمي للجمل الشرطية في قصة «حلم رجل مضحك» لدوستويفسكي

رنا سمير عبد الرحمن

قسم اللغة الإنكليزية – كلية التربية للبنات – جامعة بغداد – العراق

المستخلص

«حلم رجل مضحك» هي قصة قصيرة كتبها فيودور دوستويفسكي عام 1877. وتزخر هذه القصة بمعاني عميقة عن الحب والبؤس والمسؤولية والأنانية، كما أنها غنية بتركيبات نحوية متنوعة. ونظرًا لأهميتها كقصة عاطفية ونص أدبي، فقد خضعت لتحليل العديد من النقاد والباحثين. وعلى نحو مماثل، فإن الترجمة لا تقل أهمية عن لغة القصة، وتحتاج إلى تقييم منهجي. تكمن أهمية الدراسة في تحديد ما إذا كان المترجم على دراية ببنية الجمل الشرطية العربية، وأنه قد نجح بترجمة الجمل الإنكليزية بدقة. في حين تكمن المشكلة في وجود العديد من الأزمنة المعبر عنها من خلال حالات الشرط في اللغة الإنكليزية والتي تحتاج إلى ترجمة دقيقة. يهدف هذا البحث إلى تحليل الترجمة العربية للجمل الشرطية الإنكليزية في هذه القصة للتمييز بين الحالة الشرطية الحقيقية التي يستخدمها بطل الرواية، الذي يعاني من صراعات نفسية، والموقفين الشرطيين الافتراضيين الآخرين. وقد استُخدمت مناهج كمية ووصفية لتحليل البيانات المستخدمة. وقد خلصت الدراسة إلى أن المترجم قد نجح في ترجمة معظم الجمل الشرطية إلى العربية، إلا أنه لم يتمكن من ترجمة أداة الشرط «إذا» ترجمة صحيحة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الجمل الشرطية في اللغة العربية، الجمل الشرطية في اللغة الإنكليزية، حلم رجل مضحك، تقييم ترجمي