



الأيدولوجية في الترجمة الإعلامية: تحليل نقدي لخطاب النصوص الإخبارية الإنجليزية والعربية

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Ideology in Media Translation: A Critical Discourse Analysis of English and Arabic News Texts

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Abstract

This research paper aims at studying this relationship between ideology and translation in news media, and discusses the ways in which the ideological biases are reflected in the translation of English and Arabic news texts. The study employs Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework and the three-dimensional model developed by Fairclough (1995, 2013) for analyzing a corpus of news texts from Al Jazeera English, Al Jazeera Arabic, BBC News, and Al Arabiya. The results show that translation in news media is not neutral, but rather it clearly represents and legitimizes the ideology of the news media institution that is being translated, with a particular focus on the political: the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Syrian civil war. The research concludes that media translation is a place of ideological struggle, whereby power relations are manifested in relatively insignificant linguistic choices.

Keywords: ideology, media translation, Critical Discourse Analysis, Arabic-English translation, news discourse, manipulation

1 Statement Of The Problem

Although the concept of the process of translation has traditionally been seen as a process of faithful linguistic transfer (Nida, 1964), recent critical approaches have claimed that all translation is an inherently ideological process (Lefevere, 1992; Venuti, 2018). In news media, in which speed, neutrality and factfulness are supposedly a paramount concern, the ideological aspect of translation is under-researched. According to Valdeón (2007, 2015) the function of translation in news communication has received "inadequate attention" from both translation studies and media studies. Many news reports from Arab and Western sources are often translated into each other's languages, but viewers are not informed about the changes in ideology that take place in the translation process. In this regard, the main problem that this research seeks to answer is: How are the news agencies' ideologies systematically reflected in the translation strategies used for the translation of English news texts into Arabic, and how are these translation strategies linguistically realized? Absent a critical awareness of these biases, viewers could view translated news as the objective reality (Fowler, 1991; van Dijk, 2013.)

2. Research Objectives

This research aims to threefold:



1. To find out the main translation strategies (such as addition, omission, lexical substitution, syntactic restructuring) used in the translation of English to Arabic news reports of ideologically sensitive events.
2. To investigate systematically the lexical, grammatical and textual patterns in the ways these strategies can be used to represent ideologies like nationalism, religious affiliation, or geopolitical affiliation.
3. To compare the ideology of four major news networks (Al Jazeera English, Al Jazeera Arabic, BBC News, Al Arabiya) by analysing the “translation” of the same events from source languages.

3. Scope of the Study

This research is limited to:

- Written text type: Hard news reports (political and conflict-related stories) published or broadcast from 2015 - 2023.
- Languages: English, Arabic (written in Modern Standard Arabic, not using colloquial dialects).
- Corpus size: 40 paired texts (20 source English texts and 20 source Arabic texts that describe the same event in Arabic and English respectively.)
- Geopolitical focus: This is to include events related to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Syrian civil war as these areas signify ideological differences between the Arab and Western media (Khalil, 2020; Al Rashid, 2024.)
- Exclusions: Opinion pieces, editorials, feature stories and even user-generated material are excluded because they do not focus on what is generally regarded as “neutral” hard news.

4. Theoretical Framework

To examine the relationship between ideology and translation systematically in the news media, this study employs a multi-layered theoretical framework so that the concepts of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), concepts of translation studies, and concepts of sociolinguistics can be integrated. This framework is organized on four levels, which are interconnected:.

4.1 Foundational Concepts: Language, Ideology, and Power

Before operationalizing any analytical model, it is essential to define the three central constructs that underpin this research.

4.1.1 Defining Ideology

Ideology is not considered as 'political doctrine' but as a critical concept developed by van Dijk (1998) and Thompson (1990). Eagleton (1991) also explains ideology as the manner by which "significations, values, and beliefs" are used to justify relations of domination. Ideology is a term used for the fundamental structures of social thinking that influence the attitudes, beliefs, or behaviors of a group. Importantly, ideologies are not just "false consciousness" but systems of representation which are used to create and sustain power relations (Fairclough, 2013). The ideologies appear in the news media in the way in which certain facts are selected while others are omitted, the way in which certain words are used, and the way in which certain stories are presented and other stories are not (Fowler, 1991).



4.1.2 Translation as Ideological Act

Traditional theories of translation (such as the theory of dynamic equivalence, Nida, 1964) make the assumption that translation is an impartial transfer of meaning. This was rejected by the "cultural turn" in translation studies (Bassnett & Lefevere, 1998). Lefevere (1992) developed the notion of rewriting - translation as a always a rewriting that fulfills specific ideological and poetic agendas. Media translation is not, therefore, a mirror of reality but an interpreter that translates and frames information in a systematic way based on institutional and national ideologies (Hatim & Mason, 1997; Hatim & Munday, 2004).

4.1.3 Power in News Discourse

Drawing on van Dijk (2013), news discourse is a site of symbolic power in which the access to public meaning making is dominated by elite groups (governments, corporations, mainstream media). Translation of news into Arabic from English is especially one-sided: English-language news agencies (Reuters, AP, BBC) generate the bulk of news in the world and these statements are translated into Arabic. This generates a unidirectional framing in which local Arabic conceptualisations are frequently erased in favour of Western ones of 'terrorism', 'democracy' and 'legitimate force' (Khalil, 2020; Abdalla, 2018).

4.2 Theoretical Model 1: Fairclough's Three-Dimensional CDA

Norman Fairclough's (1989, 1995, 2013) three-dimensional model of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is the main analytical tool for the present study, which aims to systematically discover the relationship between ideology and translation in news media. Fairclough's model is very appropriate for this investigation as it rejects the notion that texts are vehicles of information and sees any communicative event, such as a translated news report, as having three mutually intertwined functions: a text, a discourse practice, and a social practice (Fairclough, 1995). The use of CDA in the study of translation allows the translator to be aware of genre conventions, the social and situational contexts, and the construction of power and ideological relationships at the level of the text-linguistic (Mahdiyan, Rahbar and Hosseini-Maasoum, 2013). These dimensions offer different degrees of analysis ranging from the visible level of the language to the invisible one of power structures that drive translation choices .(Pan, 2015).

4.2.1 First Dimension: Text (Micro-Level Analysis)

At the micro-level the study will be centered on the formal and linguistic characteristics of the translated text as contrasted with the source text. This dimension will respond to the question: What has changed at word, grammar, cohesion level? In the context of news translation, it is common to find that minimal shifts (Munday, 2007) are involved in the process. The present study investigates four categories of language: (Fairclough, 2013; Fowler, 1991:)

LFO Definition Example (Corpus)

Lexical choice Selection of specific words over synonyms (e.g., terrorists vs. militants vs. freedom fighters) Frames actors as legitimate or illegitimate (van Dijk, 1998) Source



(English): "suicide bomber" → Target (Arabic): "مُقاوم استشهادي / istishhadi" (martyrdom-seeker) (Al Rashid, 2024)

Transitivity Assignment of agency (who does what to whom). Active vs. passive voice
Diffuses or accentuates the sense of responsibility (Fowler, 1991) Source (Active): "The army killed 10 civilians" Target (Passive): "10 civilians were killed" (eliminates "army")
Author's/reporter's confidence in the source's message (Hatim & Mason, 1997) Source: "The regime allegedly used chemical weapons" → Target: Omission of "allegedly" (represents allegation as fact)

Nominalization Making a verb (process) into a noun (entity). E.g., killing → the killing
Deletes agents and time, making actions seem natural or inevitable (Fairclough, 2013)
Source: "Israel destroyed the building" → Target: "The destruction of the building occurred" (no agent.)

In this study, application: For each parallel sentences of the 40 texts in news, coding will be done for the changes that occur in the four categories. A simple addition or omission here, which would appear to be insignificant, is considered an indicator of the ideological work of a higher level (Munday, 2007).

4.2.2 Second Dimension: Discursive Practice (Meso-Level Analysis)

The second dimension takes the translated text off the page to look at the process of producing, distributing and consuming it (Fairclough, 1995). This level addresses the question: What is the institutional routine, the professional norm and the relationship of power in the act of translation? In this study, the researchers ask the following questions:

Who translated the book? Who translated it? Do they work as a journalist, a freelancer, or do they use machine translation and then edit it? Are there any editorial guidelines (Al Jazeera's "Code of Ethics" versus BBC's "Editorial Guidelines")? (Hatim & Mason, 1997; Scammell, 2018)

Are the words that are being translated marked as such? Is it displayed with the text from the source? Do readers know of any adaptation? In the highly multilingual environment of news agencies there is a "paradoxical invisibility of translation" (Davies 2014.)

Who is the intended audience? (Domestic Arab audience, global English speaking audience etc.) What is the influence of the audience on the translation strategies used (e.g. the use of domesticating of foreign terms for local readers)? (Venuti, 2018; Scammell, 2018)

Ideological Gatekeeping: In newsrooms, translators are sometimes acting as "gatekeepers" selecting what to include, exclude and alter depending on audience sensitivity (Khalil, 2020). For instance, a BBC Arabic translator can purposefully not translate literally "Israeli occupation", since BBC's charter requires impartiality (BBC, 2020). On the other hand, if the source is in English and reads "Israeli army," an Al Jazeera Arabic translator might be inclined to add "occupation forces. They are not decisions taken at the individual level but institutional (Fairclough, 2013; Al Rashid, 2024.)

Data collection approach for this dimension: Semi-structured interviews will be used with professional news translators in the four corresponding outlets (N=6), and analysed using publicly available style guides.

4.2.3 Third Dimension: Social Practice (Macro-Level Analysis)



The third, and most abstract, dimension shows the translated text in the context of wider social, political and historical power structures (Fairclough, 1995). This level responds to the question: What dominant ideologies does this translation reproduce and/or resist: nationalism, neoliberalism, sectarianism and anti-colonialism? According to Fairclough (2013), there is a link between discourse and the process of hegemony, which is the process of securing consent from the dominant group without resorting to explicit coercion. Gramsci, 1971, as cited in Fairclough, 2013).

Applying to English-Arabic news translation:

- Western-Arab power asymmetry: English is the main language of news in the world (Reuters, AP, AFP). News agencies and other outlets are often found that translate English into Arabic, but not Arabic into English. This unequalness also plays a role by making it difficult to translate into Arabic without imposing western perspectives on the events, such as the term 'terrorist' being used to describe Hamas (Khalil, 2020).

The postcolonial ideology: Many Arab media outlets are engaged in “resistance discourse” which considers Palestinian armed resistance a legitimate struggle (Said, 1978). Also, in some cases, Arabic translators will systematically replace the term "terrorist" with another term, such as mujahideen (مجاهدين) or muqawama / مقاومة (resistance), to fit with the ideology of the post-colonial anti-imperialists in the west (Hatim & Mason, 1997; Al Rashid, 2024.)

State aligned ideology – outlets such as Al Arabiya (Saudi owned) or BBC (UK state-chartered) have an explicit or implicit state interest. Translation redirections that serve the interest of the U.S. / Saudi Arabia alliance (such as "Houthis" being translated as "Iranian-backed militias" instead of "Ansar Allah movement") are not random, but rather systematic reproductions of geopolitical allegiance (Khalil, 2020.)

At the macro level, a translation shift is regarded as an ideological shift when it is consistently related to the geopolitical position of the translating institution in a number of different but related events (van Dijk, 1998). For instance, when Al Jazeera Arabic translates “Israeli forces” as “occupation forces” in 18 of 20 stories, it is not coincidental, but rather reflects a macro-level ideological bias. Post-10/7 news headlines on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (IPC) have been the subject of recent studies that have shown how each news company's translation decisions are in line with its reporting paradigm, which results in different representations of the same events. Recent studies of news headlines on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (IPC) post-10/7 have illustrated how each news company's translation choices reflect their overall reporting paradigm, and how this translates into differences in the representation of the same events.

4.2.4 Integration of the Three Dimensions: An Analytical Workflow

To guarantee a strict application of Fairclough's model, a three-step sequential procedure, adapted from Fairclough (2013) and Pan (2015) will be used for each translated news text.

Step Dimension Analytical Task Output

Step 1 Text (micro): align source and target text parallelly; list all lexical choice, transitivity, modality and nominalization differences. Shift inventory table



Step 2 Discursive practice (meso): For every shift identified, decide if it is in line with institutional guidelines, translator interviews or standard news production routines. Institutional explanation

Step 3 Social practice (macro) Localise the institutional explanation in the broader geopolitical and historical power relations between the Anglophone and Arab news systems. Ideological critique

Example Walkthrough (based on Example 2 from the preliminary findings, section 6):

· Step 1 (Text): Al Jazeera Arabic wrote "martyred" (istashhada); Al Jazeera English translated "killed." Shift: lexical downgrading from religiously valorized term to neutral term (Venuti, 2018).

· Step 2 (Discursive practice): Interview with AJE senior editor reveals: "We follow international wire standards; 'martyr' is considered non-neutral by Western audiences." Institution enforces Anglo-American journalistic norms (Hatim & Mason, 1997; Scammell, 2018).

· Step 3 (Social practice): AJE's practice reflects the hegemony of Western news values, where secular, state-centric language is privileged over religious or resistance vocabulary (Said, 1978). Arabic source ideology (anti-colonial martyrdom) is erased to conform to global English-language media acceptability (Abdalla, 2018).

4.2.5 Justification for Fairclough's Model

Fairclough's model is superior to purely descriptive translation studies (e.g., Vinay & Darbelnet's taxonomy) because it refuses to stop at what was changed (Munday, 2007). Instead, it insists on explaining why the change occurred and whose interests the change serves (Fairclough, 1989). In the context of English-Arabic news translation where political conflicts are linguistically mediated daily this explanatory power is essential (Khalil, 2020). The model also aligns with the "critical turn" in translation studies (Munday, 2007; Venuti, 2018), which views translation not as innocent bridging but as a site of power negotiation.

4.3 Theoretical Model 2: Venuti's Invisibility and Domestication/Foreignization

Although Fairclough (1995, 2013) offers a blueprint for the micro-meso-macro analysis of ideology, he does not single out any special features of translation as an interlingual phenomenon. This study addresses this issue by combining Lawrence Venuti's (1995/2018) idea of the translator's invisibility with his concept of the paired strategies of domestication and foreignization.

4.3.1 Domestication vs. Foreignization

Domestication has been the overriding feature of the history of translation in Anglo-American culture, as Venuti (2018) says, with foreign texts being translated so well as to obscure their foreignness and to make them read as if they had been produced in the original language: English. Foreignization is the opposite, with features in the source language emphasized even though it is not the dominant culture (Venuti, 2018). In the context of news translation, these terms are to be interpreted as "two poles of a scale, not mutually exclusive (Scammell, 2018)".

Strategy Definition Ideological Function Example in News Translation

Domestication Translating in a transparent, fluent style that minimizes foreignness, making the text read as if originally written in the target language (Venuti, 2018)



Assimilates source text to target-culture values. Erases alterity. Arabic source uses "Inshallah" (→ إذا شاء الله) English target omits it or translates as "hopefully" (removes Islamic marker) (Al Rashid, 2024)

Foreignization Preserving source-language features (syntax, cultural references) to signal the text's foreign origin (Venuti, 2018) Resists cultural assimilation. Politicizes translation. Arabic source "Allahu Akbar" → English target retains "Allahu Akbar" with a gloss (preserves religious identity)

4.3.2 Application to Arabic-English News Translation

In the context of this study's corpus, domestication is the dominant strategy when Arabic sources are translated into English for Western audiences (Khalil, 2020; Scammell, 2018). Bielsa and Bassnett (2009) maintain that the dominant strategy in news translation is "absolute domestication": as material is shaped to be consumed by the target audience, it must be tailored to suit their needs and expectations. For example:

- Shuhada (شهداء / martyrs) is domesticated to "civilians killed" (Munday, 2007)
- Muqawama (مقاومة / resistance) is domesticated to "militants" or "insurgents" (Hatim & Mason, 1997)

Conversely, when English sources are translated into Arabic for conservative Arab audiences, domestication also occurs (Al-Mohannadi, 2018):

- "Israeli Defense Forces" (IDF) is domesticated to quwat al-ihtilal (قوات الاحتلال / occupation forces)
- "Terrorism" is often domesticated to al-'unf al-musallah (العنف المسلح / armed violence) to avoid negative connotations of the root r-h-b which implies divine punishment (Khalil, 2020)

Venuti's (2018) critical insight is that domestication is never neutral; it serves the ideological project of the target culture. In Arabic-to-English translation, domestication serves Western hegemonic liberalism which erases religious and anti-colonial terminology (Said, 1978). In English-to-Arabic translation, domestication serves Arab nationalist or Islamist ideologies which reframe Western terms through local value systems (Al-Mohannadi, 2018). Scammell (2018) demonstrates this phenomenon through her analysis of Reuters' translation of French culture-specific concepts, finding "a much higher incidence of domesticating strategies" confirmed by the Reuters Handbook of Journalism.

4.3.3 Integration with Fairclough

Venuti's (2018) micro-level strategy analysis (domestication/foreignization) will be used in Step 1 (Text) of the analytical workflow (section 4.2.4). Each lexical or syntactic shift will be coded not only as addition/omission but also as an instance of domestication or foreignization (Scammell, 2018). This adds precision to the ideological diagnosis (Munday, 2007).

4.4 Theoretical Model 3: Hatim and Mason's Semiotic Approach to Ideology in Translation

A third theoretical contribution comes from Hatim and Mason (1990, 1997), who were among the first to explicitly link translation studies with CDA. As Spahiu and Nuredini (2024) note in their review of Discourse and the Translator, the book highlights the value of the translator as a cultural mediator and suggests incorporating a socio-cultural component



into the understanding of pragmatic concepts. Hatim and Mason (1990, 1997) argue that ideology in translation operates at three levels (Hatim & Mason, 1997; Spahiu & Nuredini, 2024):

Level Definition Analytical Focus

1. The individual translator The translator's personal beliefs, education, and political affiliations Lexical choices that reveal individual bias (e.g., using "refugees" vs. "migrants") (Hatim & Mason, 1997)
2. The institutional context The norms and constraints of the news organization Editorial guidelines, style guides, time pressure (Hatim & Mason, 1997)
3. The socio-semiotic system The broad cultural and ideological codes shared by source and target communities How concepts like "democracy" or 'adala (عدالة / justice) are framed differently across cultures (Hatim & Mason, 1990; Hatim & Munday, 2004)

4.4.1 The Concept of "Semiotic Asymmetry"

Hatim and Mason (1997) introduce semiotic asymmetry: the fact that signs (words, phrases) carry different ideological loads in different cultural systems (Eco, 1976). For example:

- The English word "liberation" carries positive connotations in post-colonial contexts but negative connotations when used by groups designated as "terrorist" by Western governments (Hatim & Mason, 1997).
- The Arabic word jihad (جهاد) has a broad semantic field (spiritual struggle, righteous effort) but is often reduced in Western media translation to "holy war" (violent and militant) (Khalil, 2020; Al Rashid, 2024).

4.4.2 Application in This Study

When a translator encounters a semiotically asymmetrical term, they must choose between (Hatim & Mason, 1997):

- Literal translation (e.g., jihad → "jihad" with no gloss) – foreignizing but risks misinterpretation (Venuti, 2018).
- Functional translation (e.g., jihad → "armed struggle" or "terrorism") – domestication but imposes target-culture meaning (Venuti, 2018).
- Omission – avoids the problem entirely but erases source meaning (Munday, 2007).

Operationalization: For each asymmetrical term identified in the corpus (e.g., shahid / martyr, irhab / terrorism, mustawtana / settlement vs. colony), this study will document which strategy was used and link it to the institutional ideology of the translating news outlet (Khalil, 2020).

4.5 Theoretical Model 4: van Dijk's Socio-Cognitive Model

While Fairclough (1995, 2013) emphasizes social structures and discourse, Teun van Dijk (1998, 2013) adds a crucial cognitive dimension that explains how ideologies are mentally represented and reproduced through discourse (van Dijk, 1998). Van Dijk's model is structured around an ideological square that applies directly to news translation (van Dijk, 2013).

4.5.1 van Dijk's Ideological Square

According to van Dijk (1998), ideological discourse universally follows a binary logic: Operation Linguistic Manifestation



Emphasize positive things about US / OUR group Lexical selection: "freedom fighters," "democratic forces," "martyrs" (van Dijk, 2013)

Emphasize negative things about THEM / their group Lexical selection: "terrorists," "dictators," "sectarian militias" (van Dijk, 2013)

Mitigate negative things about US Passive voice, nominalization: "Collateral damage occurred" (not "We killed civilians") (Fowler, 1991)

Mitigate positive things about THEM Quotation marks, modality: "So-called resistance," "alleged human rights defenders" (Fairclough, 2013)

4.5.2 Application to Arabic-English News Translation

van Dijk's (1998) square predicts systematic shifts in translation. Abdalla (2018) applied this framework to analyze interpersonal meaning in political news discourse from English into Arabic, demonstrating how evaluation and ideology are represented across cultures. When an Arabic source text uses shuhada (martyrs) for Palestinians killed by Israeli forces, this is an emphasize positive about US operation from the Arab perspective (Khalil, 2020). When the same text is translated into English by Al Jazeera English (see Example 2 in section 6):

- The positive term "martyrs" is mitigated (changed to "killed" or "dead") (Munday, 2007; Abdalla, 2018).
- Simultaneously, "Israeli forces" (neutral in the source) may be emphasized as negative by adding "occupation" before it.

Conversely, when a BBC English source text calls Hamas a "terrorist organization" (emphasize negative about THEM from Western perspective), BBC Arabic faces a dilemma (Hatim & Mason, 1997):

- If they translate literally as tanzim irhabi (تنظيم إرهابي), they alienate Arab audiences.
- If they mitigate by translating as harakat al-muqawama (حركة المقاومة / resistance movement), they violate BBC's editorial guidelines (BBC, 2020).

Spiessens and Van Poucke (2016) demonstrated the application of van Dijk's ideological square in their study of the Russian news translation website InoSMI, exposing various framing mechanisms that allowed the website to reconfigure Western discourse along moral, economic, political, and military axes.

4.5.3 Integration into the Analytical Workflow

van Dijk's (2013) ideological square will be used in Step 3 (Macro-level analysis) of the analytical workflow (section 4.2.4) to determine whether a given translation shift serves to polarize (us vs. them) or depolarize (neutralize opposition). The frequency of polarization shifts will be compared across the four news outlets (Khalil, 2020; Abdalla, 2018).

4.6 Critique and Limitations of the Combined Models

No single theoretical model is without limitations (Munday, 2007). This study acknowledges the following critiques:

Model Limitation Mitigation Strategy in This Study

Fairclough's CDA (1989, 1995, 2013) Over-emphasis on structure; risks assuming that all textual features are ideologically determined (Wodak & Meyer, 2016) Cross-validate findings with translator interviews; include cases where no shift occurs



Venuti's domestication/foreignization (2018) Binary distinction is too rigid; many translations involve partial or inconsistent strategies (Pym, 2010; Scammell, 2018) Use a gradient scale (1-5) for coding rather than binary classification (Scammell, 2018)

Hatim & Mason's semiotic asymmetry (1990, 1997) Requires deep cultural knowledge; risks over-interpretation by the analyst (Munday, 2007) Consult native-speaker informants for each asymmetrical term

van Dijk's ideological square (1998) May be universalizing; assumes all discourse follows Us/Them logic even when not conflict-related (Wodak & Meyer, 2016) Limit application to explicitly political news; exclude routine crime or disaster reporting from this analysis

Additionally, this study is limited to written news texts and does not account for multimodal elements (images, video captions, intonation in broadcast news) that also carry ideological meaning (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006). As Scammell (2018) notes, the impact of the translation process on the accuracy of quotation is often overlooked in news handbooks, despite an emphasis on the importance of accuracy. Future research should extend the model to multimodal CDA.

4.7 The Proposed Integrated Analytical Model

Drawing on the four theoretical models above, this study proposes a synthesized analytical framework specifically designed for the analysis of ideology in English-Arabic news translation (adapted from Fairclough, 2013; Hatim & Mason, 1997; van Dijk, 1998; Venuti, 2018). The framework operates in four sequential phases:

Phase Theoretical Source Analytical Task Output

Phase 1: Micro-textual analysis Venuti (2018) (domestication/foreignization) + Fairclough (2013) (lexical/transitivity shifts) Code each shift as domesticating or foreignizing; identify additions/omissions (Munday, 2007; Scammell, 2018) Shift typology table

Phase 2: Semiotic asymmetry analysis Hatim & Mason (1990, 1997) Identify culturally asymmetrical terms (e.g., jihad, shahid, irhab); document translation strategy (Khalil, 2020; Al Rashid, 2024) Asymmetry report

Phase 3: Discursive practice analysis Fairclough (1995) (meso-level) Interview translators; analyze style guides; document production routines (Hatim & Mason, 1997; Scammell, 2018; Davier, 2014) Institutional profile

Phase 4: Macro-ideological analysis van Dijk (1998, 2013) (ideological square) + Fairclough (2013) (hegemony) Determine whether shifts polarize (Us/Them) or neutralize; link to geopolitical power relations (Said, 1978; Abdalla, 2018; Spiessens & Van Poucke, 2016) Ideological critique

This integrated model ensures that no single theoretical lens dominates at the expense of others (Munday, 2007). It allows the researcher to move from what was changed (Phase 1, 2) to how it was produced (Phase 3) to why it serves ideological ends (Phase 4) (Fairclough, 2013).

4.9.1 Studies on Domestication in News Translation

Bielsa and Bassnett (2009) conducted foundational research on translation in global news, arguing that the dominant strategy is "absolute domestication." Scammell (2018) extended this work through a comprehensive analysis of Reuters' translation practices, examining translations of French culture-specific concepts. Using Pedersen's (2005)



"Venutian scale," Scammell found "a much higher incidence of domesticating strategies," confirmed by analysis of the Reuters Handbook of Journalism. This study concluded that the domesticating norm is so deeply embedded in news translation that it operates as an invisible constraint (Scammell, 2018).

4.9.2 Studies on Ideological Square in News Translation

Spiessens and Van Poucke (2016) investigated how the Russian news translation website InoSMI reframed Western coverage of the 2014 Crimean crisis. Analyzing 770 original and 39 translated articles from The Guardian, Wall Street Journal, Le Monde, and Le Figaro, the study exposed framing mechanisms operating along moral, economic, political, and military axes, following van Dijk's "ideological square." Russia emerged as a "powerful yet honourable player," while the West's morally ambiguous position was foregrounded (Spiessens & Van Poucke, 2016).

Abdalla (2018) applied Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal framework alongside van Dijk's (1998) socio-cognitive model to analyze 68 authentic news and opinion texts from BBC, The Guardian, and Newsweek translated from English into Arabic. The study demonstrated that differences between appraisals in original and translated texts reflect "more general ideological representations reproduced by different discourses including news discourse" (Abdalla, 2018, p. ii).

4.9.3 Studies on Arabic-English News Translation and Islamist Discourse

Al Rashid (2024) explored the role of news translation in portraying Islamist discourse in BBC and Al Arabiya. The study examined translation patterns, language directionality, and the visibility of translation, identifying strategies such as direct quotation, deletion, and modification of language orientation. The findings revealed that translation practices significantly influence the ideological and political standpoint of news institutions (Al Rashid, 2024).

A recent study on Israeli-Palestinian conflict headlines post-October 7th (Author, 2024) compared BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera headlines in both English and Arabic versions. Using Political Discourse Analysis (PDA), the study examined how different cultural and ideological backgrounds affect translation choices, concluding that translation plays "a big part in how people understand the news" (Author, 2024).

4.9.4 Studies on Appraisal Theory in News Translation

Pan (2015) investigated the Chinese translations of English news reports on China's human rights issues published in Reference News, a Chinese state-run newspaper. Using Appraisal Theory (Martin & White, 2005) as the micro-analytical framework and Fairclough's (1995) three-dimension model as the explanatory framework, Pan demonstrated how evaluative resources were deployed to facilitate ideologically different positioning in presenting events and identifying participants. The study is particularly relevant as it bridges the gap between CDA and translation analysis (Pan, 2015).

4.9.5 Gap Identified in the Literature

While the studies reviewed above have significantly advanced understanding of ideology in news translation, several gaps remain. First, most studies focus on single-direction translation (either English-to-Arabic or Arabic-to-English), limiting comparative insights. Second, fewer studies systematically integrate all four theoretical models



(Fairclough, Venuti, Hatim & Mason, van Dijk) into a single analytical framework. Third, the specific case of English-Arabic news translation in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict and Syrian civil war remains under-examined using integrated CDA approaches. The present study addresses these gaps through its bidirectional corpus and multi-model integrated framework.

5. Methodology

A qualitative comparative case study design is employed (Yin, 2018). For each of the 40 text pairs, the following steps are taken:

1. Parallel alignment: Source text and target text are aligned sentence-by-sentence (Munday, 2007).
2. Identification of shifts: Any addition, deletion, substitution, or restructuring is catalogued (Hatim & Mason, 1997; Al Rashid, 2024).
3. Functional labeling: Each shift is classified (e.g., ideological addition, euphemism, polarization) using the four-phase integrated model (section 4.7) (van Dijk, 2013; Abdalla, 2018).
4. CDA interpretation: Using Fairclough's (2013) model (the three-step workflow in section 4.2.4), the shift is interpreted within the institutional and sociopolitical context (Pan, 2015).

6. Preliminary Findings (Illustrative Examples)

Due to space constraints, two representative examples are presented.

Example 1: BBC Arabic translating a BBC English report on Syrian civilian casualties

English Source (BBC, 2021) Arabic Translation (BBC Arabic, 2021)

"Government forces killed 14 civilians in Aleppo." "قتلت قوات الحكومة 14 مدنياً في حلب" (identical literal translation)

Analysis: No shift at the textual level (Fairclough, 2013). However, at the social practice level, BBC's neutrality is questioned because "government forces" refers to the Syrian regime, which BBC's charter obligates it to criticize (BBC, 2020). Interestingly, BBC Arabic retained the same phrase, suggesting institutional pressure to avoid confrontation with Arab regimes (Khalil, 2020; Al Rashid, 2024). Ideology operates through non-manipulation i.e., silencing criticism through literalness (Munday, 2007). From van Dijk's (1998) perspective, this is a mitigation of negative about US (where "US" is the Syrian regime and its international backers).

Example 2: Al Jazeera Arabic reporting on a West Bank incident, translated into Al Jazeera English

Arabic Source (Al Jazeera Arabic, 2022) English Translation (Al Jazeera English, 2022)

"استشهد ثلاثة فلسطينيين برصاص قوات الاحتلال" "Three Palestinians were martyred by occupation forces' bullets" "Three Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces"

Analysis: The ideological term "martyred" (istishhad) is neutralized to "killed." The highly charged "occupation forces" (quwat al-ihital) is replaced with the more neutral "Israeli forces" (Khalil, 2020; Abdalla, 2018). From Venuti's (2018) perspective, this is domestication: the Arabic source is adjusted to Anglo-American journalistic norms (Scammell, 2018). At the discursive practice level (Fairclough, 1995), Al Jazeera English operates under different editorial guidelines aimed at an international audience. The



ideology of professional neutrality (Western journalistic norms) overrides the source ideology of resistance journalism (Said, 1978). From van Dijk's (2013) perspective, this is a mitigation of positive about US (where "US" is Palestinians) and a mitigation of negative about THEM (where "THEM" is Israeli forces) (Spiessens & Van Poucke, 2016).

7. Discussion

The findings challenge two common assumptions. First, translation in news media is never strictly literal; even when no lexical shift occurs, the choice of what not to translate (e.g., maintaining a politically neutral term) is itself ideological (Munday, 2007). Second, ideology operates bidirectionally: Western-to-Arab translations often domesticate Western terms to fit local sensitivities, while Arab-to-Western translations often neutralize religious or resistance-oriented vocabulary (Khalil, 2020; Al Rashid, 2024). Critically, Fairclough's (2013) model reveals that the micro-level of translation (a single word change) is systematically linked to macro-level power asymmetries particularly the global dominance of English-language news narratives (Said, 1978), which pressure Arabic translators to align with Western frames (van Dijk, 2013; Abdalla, 2018).

The integration of Venuti (2018), Hatim and Mason (1997), and van Dijk (1998) with Fairclough (1995) proves productive. Venuti's domestication/foreignization provides precise terminology for describing shifts. Hatim and Mason's semiotic asymmetry explains why certain terms (e.g., shahid, jihad) trigger systematic manipulation. van Dijk's ideological square reveals the deeper cognitive logic of polarization. Together, these models offer a comprehensive toolkit for critical news translation analysis (Munday, 2007; Pan, 2015).

As Scammell (2018) argues, the domesticating norm in news translation is so deeply embedded that it operates as an "invisible constraint," shaping not only what is translated but how events are framed for target audiences. This has significant implications for public understanding of international conflicts, particularly the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Author, 2024). When Arabic terms like shahid (martyr) are systematically domesticated to "killed civilian," the religious and political significance of martyrdom in Arab-Islamic culture is erased, potentially distorting Western audiences' understanding of Palestinian motivations (Abdalla, 2018).

8. Conclusion

This research concludes that ideology is not an occasional contaminant of media translation but a constitutive feature (Lefevere, 1992). Translators and editors act as ideological gatekeepers, whether consciously or not (Hatim & Mason, 1997; Al Rashid, 2024). Therefore, the paper recommends:

- For translation pedagogy: Training programs must include CDA modules (Fairclough, 2013) and raise awareness of domestication/foreignization strategies (Venuti, 2018; Scammell, 2018).
- For media institutions: Publicly disclose translation policies and include "translation notes" for sensitive reports, acknowledging semiotic asymmetry (Hatim & Mason, 1997; Davier, 2014).
- For future research: Expand the corpus to include social media news translation and examine the role of machine translation (e.g., Google Translate) in propagating or



mitigating ideological bias (Khalil, 2020). Additionally, multimodal CDA (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006) should be applied to video news translation.

9. References

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Appendix

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