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THE ENGLISH / ARABIC TRANSLATION METHODS OF METAPHORS AND IDIOMS: SPEECHES OF KING ABDULLAH II

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Abstract:

Translation is a process of transferring meanings from a source language into a target language. Translators often state that figurative language like metaphor and idiom present challenges in the translation process.Metaphors and idioms play a central role in political discourse; they are used for rhetorical persuasive purposes This research aims at finding the translation methods provided by the Royal Court translators when translating metaphors and idioms in the political speeches of king Abdullah II of Jordan from English into Arabic. In the present study, Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) theory of translation methods is adapted in order to achieve the objectives of the study. Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) classify the translation methods into calque, borrowing, literal, equivalence, modulation, adaptation, and transposition. This study deploys qualitative method in analyzing metaphors and idioms in the speeches of king Abdullah II. The main data for this research are the speeches and discussion papers of his majesty King Abdullah II which are published in his official website: (http://www.kingabdullah.jo) . The findings of the study revealed that translators of the royal court apply Vinay and Darbelnet translation methods (1995) in translating both metaphors and idioms. namely, borrowing, claque, literal, transportation, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation.

Keywords:

Metaphors, Idioms, Source Text, Target Text, Political Speeches, Translation Methods

Introduction

Translation helps people to communicate effectively. According to Ghazala (1995, p.1) "Translation is generally used to refer to all the process and methods used to convey the meaning of the source language into the target language". Therefore, understanding the meaning of the source language essential to reflect an appropriate meaning in the target language. Newmark (1988) imagines the translation as the bridge that connect the author's intention in the source text with the receivers of the target text. Nida and Taber (1982,p.12) highlight the main principles of translation by focusing on reproducing the closet natural equivalent meaning and style of the source text in the target text Moreover, Newmark (1988:45) is the first in addressing the translation in the field of politics and finding methods that can be helpful in evaluating the translated text. He suggests the following translation methods: Transference naturalization, using cultural equivalence, using functional equivalence, using descriptive equivalence, Componential analysis, Synonyms, through – Translation, Shifting or Transposition, Modulation, sing the Recognized Translation, Using the Recognized Translation, Compensation, paraphrase, Couplets, triplets and quadruplets, and notes. On the other hand, House (1997, p.188) suggests other translation methods as: covert translation, overt translation, gloss translation, gist translation and borrowing. Figurative language can be used to achieve many purposes Muller (2005) illustrates that persuasion is not the only purpose of using metaphors in political speeches and metaphors will be distorted if it focuses on the persuasion function only. Figurative language can also be used to express something can't be expressed in literal speech, and add the nature of vividness to a speech.

Literature Review

Many researchers have tackled the issue of translating figurative language especially metaphors and idioms in political speeches as well as the methods applied for that nationally and internationally.

In (2014) Abu-Ain discussed the issue of equivalence in political speeches in the translation of metaphors and idioms from Arabic into English. The data of the study was the speeches of king Hussein of Jordan. Abu Ain used Newmark (1988) typology of culture and categorized the items as 1. religious culture 2. social culture 3. Political culture 4. Material and ecological cultures. The study sheds a light on the importance of intertextuality, emotiveness and ideology in the translation of king Hussein's political speeches.

Similarly, Mehawesh (2016) discussed the issue of figurative language by analyzing metaphors and simile in the political speeches of king Abdullah II.Mehawesh applied both the comparative and descriptive methods in order to highlight the effect metaphors in persuading the audience. The researcher identified metaphors and similes in the source text and explained the use of them in both the source language and the target language. The study revealed that both metaphors and idioms should be translated in an emotive way to provoke the target language receiver toward the subject of the speech without affecting the text. Also, the study showed that the poetic language is generally the nature of language used in political speeches.

On the other hand,Al-Assaf (2019) discussed the translation of idioms from the English language into the Arabic language using the novel "Appointment with Death "as a case study. The researcher identified the idioms and the fixed expressions in the novel, and highlighted the methods used by Omar Abdulaziz Ameen in translating these idioms. The researcher applied

Baker's (1992) strategies of translating idioms. The study showed that the most used translation method by the translator is paraphrasing.

Farghal &Mansour (2020) highlights the methods used in translating the metaphorical expressions in the talks of Mahfouz's novel "Morning and Evening". The researcher collected 100 Arabic Metaphorical expression from the novel and their translation by Christina Philips in Morning and Evening Talk (2007). The results of the study showed that concrete-to-abstract borrowing is used more than concrete -to-concrete borrowing. Moreover, the translator applied many methods in translating these 100 metaphors; maintain metaphors was applied 57%, demetaphoring metaphor 16%, while changing metaphor was only 7%in the collected data of the study.

Figurative Language
According to Kennedy (1983) figurative language is a group of words that exaggerate the literal meaning of a word and go beyond the usual denotations of words. Also, figurative language can be put in three basic groups: comparative figurative language (metaphor, allegory, simile, and personification), contradictive figurative language (hyperbole, litotes, and paradox) and correlative figurative language (metonymy, and synecdoche).

Metaphor
Metaphor is used as a powerful form of language which help users to understand abstract, unfamiliar content and truths. It also can convey meaning in the reader's mind with just a few simple words. Lakoff & Johnson (2008, p.5) believe that the essence of metaphor is" understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in term of another". On the same way, Newmark (1988, p.29) describes metaphor as a figure of speech that is used to describe two unrelated things but they have many common characteristics. Likewise, Peter (2002) argues that metaphor is a kind of figure of speech that is used to compare two different things without using words as like, similar to, and resemble.

Idioms
Idioms are common expressions that mean something different from the literal meaning of the words. Scholars in the field of translation define idiom differently: Fernando (1996:3) defines idioms as a "conventionalized multiword expressions" which are accepted by society and can cover all figures of speech such as: proverbs, simile, and sayings. Also, an idiom constitutes of a group of words which differ from the meaning of the individual words themselves.

Similarly, Baker (1992, p.63) believes that idioms are "frozen patterns of language which allow little variations in form, and in the case of idioms, often carry meaning which can't be deducted from their individual components". For instance, the example "the ball is in your court" has nothing to do with ball or court, but it is up to you to make the next decision or step.

(Ghazala, 1995) gives a number of characteristics for idioms. He believes that idioms are informal and culture, have fixed form that can't be changed, can't be understood be their literal meaning, and their meaning is constant, and it is hard to understand idioms directly.

Translation Method
Generally, method or procedure is a tool devised in order to achieve a certain goal or long-term plan for success. In translation studies, method is an approach used to render a certain text. It

helps to decide if the translated text is a source language oriented or a target language oriented. Krings (1986:18) illustrates that translation method is all translators' potentially conscious plans for solving concrete translation problems in the framework of a concrete translation tasks.

In the field of translation, Newmark, Nida, Vinay and Darbelnet and Venunti tackled the issue of translation methods. Vinay and Darbelnet suggest some translation methods that help in analyzing any translated text such as: borrowing, calque, literal translation, modulation and adaptation which are applied in this research. It is worth mentioning that Newmark is the first in tackling the translation of political texts and sets the translations methods which help in evaluating the target text in relation to the culture of meaning of the source text. He proposes word for word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantics translation, adaptation, free translation, idiomatic translation and communicative translation.

Theoretical Framework of The Study
In the present study, Vinay and Darbelnet (1959) theory of translation methods are adapted in order to achieve the objectives of the study. Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) classify the translation techniques into direct and oblique which means literal and free methods of translation respectively. The former placed calque, borrowing, and literal translation whereas the later methods are modulation, adaptation, and transposition. Vinay and Darblnet illustrate these translation methods in the following figure:
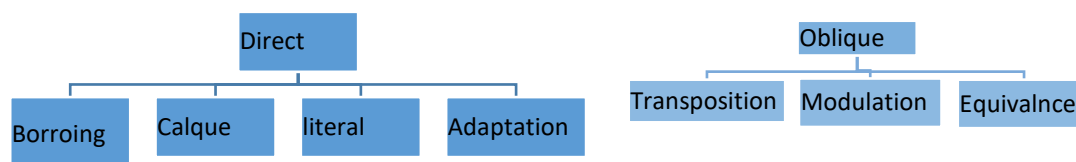

Figure (1) Vinay and Darblnet Translation Methods

These seven translation methods which are suggested by Vinay and Darbelnet and applied in this research paper are explained in the following points:

1. **Transposition:** According to Vinay and Darbelnet (1959) is used when the translator changes the word class or type without changing the meaning such as from noun to verb or singular to a plural and this can be either obligatory or optional. For example: the English singular word **achievement** is translated to the plural Arabic word انجازات.
2. **Modulation:** This involves a change of perspective, adjusting what has been written in order to express the same idea and preserve the meaning. For example: the English noun in the sentence " **she lived with her step mother**" will be translated into a noun equivalent in meaning عاشت مع زوجة ابيها.
3. **Equivalence:** According to Vinay and Darbelnet is method helps translators to preserve the meaning of an expression, name or proverb by finding a target language equivalent. For example: the English idiomatic expression **to be on pins and needles** will be to the equivalent Arabic expression. على احر من الجمر

4. **Borrowing**: is where words or expressions are taken directly from the source text and carried over into the target language and this helps to preserve the cultural context of the source language. For example: the English term **Internet** is translated to the borrowed Arabic term الانترنت.

5. **Calque:** It is a special kind of borrowing according to Vinay and Darbelnet. They believe that this method is the literal translation of a phrase from one language into another, coining a new term in the target language. In other words, this is the literal translation of a borrowed word. For example: the English expression **non-violence** is introduced to Arabic as **لا عنف.**

6. **Literal:** According to Vinay and Darbelnet (1959), literal translation is "the direct transfer of a SL text into a grammatically and idiomatically appropriate TL text" which means each word is translated literary and the target text must be idiomatic and retain the same word order, meaning and style as the source text. For example: the multi word units **peace and war** is translated to the multi word units الحرب والسلام.

7. **Adaptation:** According to Vinay and Darbelnet (1959) "can be described as a special kind of equivalence, a situational equivalence." Also known as cultural substitution, cultural elements of the source language are replaced with an equivalent cultural element of the target language. This makes the text more familiar and easier to understand, especially with units of measurement. For example: the Arabic expression خطيب المسجد can be adapted as **priest** in the English language.

Research Method

This study deploys qualitative method. The method is appropriate in this study to analyze the translation of metaphors and idioms in the political speeches of king Abdullah the second. The analytical approach is also used to examine the methods used by the translators of the Royal court in translating metaphors and idioms in the political speeches of his majesty king Abdullah II of Jordan. It is also fundamental to trace the impact of Vinay and Darbelnet translation methods of metaphors and idioms.

Data collection Procedures

Speeches and discussion papers of his majesty King Abdullah II which are published in his official website: (http://www.kingabdullah.jo) are the main data for this research. These speeches are delivered originally in English by King Abdullah II of Jordan and translated by the official translators of the Royal Court. These speeches cover different important occasions nationally and internationally.

Research Objective

This study aims at identifying and providing methods of translating metaphors and idioms from the English language into the Arabic language in the political speeches of His Majesty king Abdullah II.

Research Question

The present study investigated the applied methods by the Royal Court translators in translating metaphors and idioms in the speeches of king Abdullah II. It tries to answer the following question:

1. What are the methods of translating metaphors and idioms from the English language into the Arabic language in the political speeches of king Abdullah II?

Results and Discussions

In this section, the research question of the study is answered using Vinay and Darbelnet (1959) translation methods, namely, borrowing, claque, literal, transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation. This section will analyze the methods used by translators of the Royal Court in translating metaphors and idioms in the political speeches of his Majesty king Abdullah II of Jordan. In the following part the research analyzes firstly the data collected in **Metaphors** and then in **Idioms**.

First, Metaphor

Transposition

Example (1): For decades, humanity has been moving at lightning speed, surrounded by change on every side

فعلى مدار العقود الماضية، أصبحت البشرية تتحرك وتتطور بسرعة عالية جدا، وتحيط بها التغييرات من كل جانب.
As indicated in the above example, the Arabic translation of the source text starts with a different word order from the English version, which begins with the verb **اصبحت** and then the subject **البشرية**, while the English text begins with the subject **humanity** and then the verb **has been moving.**

Modulation

Example (2), But together, God willing, we can achieve something important; we can create the future of coexistence that humanity so desperately needs.

ولكننا إن عملنا معاً، بمشيئة الله، سنتمكن من إنجاز أمر جوهري، وهو الوصول إلى مستقبل يسوده الوئام، وهو ما تنشده وتحتاجه البشرية.
In the above example, the metaphor; we can create the future of coexistence that humanity so desperately needs has been translated using modulation translation method as وهو الوصول إلى مستقبل يسوده الوئام to convey the same effect and meaning to the target language audience.

Equivalence

Example (3) The future for all of us will be shaped by the actions—as you pointed out—we take now, and we all have to work in partnership in four key areas. Let me say a brief word about each.

ومن شأن المواقف والأفعال التى نتبناها اليوم أن تحدد مستقبلنا في قادم الأيام، لذلك يتوجب علينا أن نعمل بشكل
As shown in the above metaphor will be shaped by the actions is translated into ومن شأن المواقف والأفعال التى نتبناها اليوم أن تحدد مستقبلنا. In fact, royal translators show that they opt for equivalence in translating the metaphorical expression in king Abdullah II speech.

Borrowing

Example (4) As our world continues to grapple with COVID-19 and its far-reaching implications, and as our peoples look towards us to navigate these uncharted waters, with bold statesmanship.

فيما يواصل عالمنا مجابهة وباء كورونا وتداعياته بعيدة المدى، وتتطلع شعوبنا إلينا لكي نقودها في تجاوز المجهول بحنكة وشجاعة.

As indicated in example (4) the translators opted for using 'borrowing' as a translation method because such words do not have an equivalent counterpart in the target language. Therefore, the word COVID-19 or Corona don't have an equivalent counterpart in the target language, and they have been translated into كورونا which is borrowed from the source language.

Calque

Example (5) The Islam of the holistic vision of the Quran and the Sunnah, <u>not the cherry-picking of verses to suit a political agenda</u>.

إسلام النظرة الشمولية التي جاءت في القرآن الكريم والسنة النبوية، <u>لا الانتقائية</u> عبر اجتزاء تفسير الآيات القرآنية والأحاديث لخدمة أجندات سياسية.

As indicated in example (5), The royal translators opted for calque translation without posing a problem for target language readers because such word is used in the target language. Therefore, 'cherry-picking' means in Merriam-Webster online dictionary 'to select the best or most desirable'; such word does not have an equivalent counterpart in the target language, translated into "لا الانتقائية".

Literal

Example (6) They want to pull societies apart and cut the ties of friendship around the world.

فهم يريدون <u>تمزيق مجتمعاتنا،</u> وقطع <u>روابط الصداقة في جميع أنحاء العالم.</u>

As shown in the above example, the royal translators opted for literal translation in translating '<u>pull societies apart</u> and <u>cut the ties of friendship around the world</u>' into "تمزيق مجتمعاتنا، وقطع روابط الصداقة في جميع أنحاء العالم" It is considered as word- for- word translation and described by Vinay and Darbelnet as being most common between languages of the same family and culture.

Adaptation

Example (7) More and more people feel <u>the ground of life shifting under their feet.</u>

ويشعر كثير من الناس، وبشكل متزايد، <u>بعدم الاستقرار وأن أسس حياتهم في تحول مستمر</u>

In this example, the translator has used the modulation method in translation because the literal translation of the metaphor in the source text will not reflect the same meaning and effect to the audience of the target language

Second: Idioms

Transposition

Example (8) The pandemic <u>has shown us</u> how connected we truly are.

لقد <u>كشف لنا</u> هذا الوباء مدى ترابطنا.

In the above example, the royal translators did not comply with the word order in the source text. The idiom "the pandemic has shown us "is transported by the translators of the Royal court into "لقد كشف لنا هذا الوباء"

In this example, the translated idiom starts with adverb and then with subject, while the source text starts with the subject and then verb. This entails changing the grammatical category of the word to another part without changing the meaning of the source text to the target text audience.

Modulation

Example (9) Old ways of doing things constantly seem <u>to be left behind.</u>

ومن الواضح أن أساليب العمل القديمة <u>باتت تختفي تدريجياً</u>

As illustrated in the above example, the idiom 'to be left behind' is modulated by royal translators into "باتت تختفي تدريجياً". The translators of the royal court opted for this translation method in this example because the literal translation will reflect unnatural and awkward translation for the audience of the target text.

Equivalence

Example (10) Our youth, the youth of this region, <u>look to</u> you to invest in their future.

شبابنا، شباب هذه المنطقة، <u>يتطلعون</u> إليكم للاستثمار في مستقبلهم

The example shows that the Royal Court translators opted for the Equivalence method in translating the metaphor <u>look to</u> into يتطلعون instead of translating the metaphor <u>look to</u> literally <u>into</u> ينظرون which may distort the intended meaning in the source text.

Borrowing

Example (11) the fight against these outlaws, the khawarej of Islam<u>, is not over.</u>

إلا أن الحرب ضد هؤلاء الخوارج <u>لم تنته بعد.</u>

According to Venuti and Darbelnet Such translation method resembles to a great extent foreignization approach gives the reader a chance to expose to the culture of the source text.
As it is demonstrated in example (11)the royal court translators use the same borrowed word khawarj in the target text, which means an Islamic sect that has appeared during the First Muslim Civil War; the reason behind transliterating such word into the target language because such word is a proper name that does not have an equivalent counterpart in the target language.

Calque

Example (12) COVID-19 has <u>upended our world.</u> Over 1 million precious lives have been lost.

لقد قلبت جائحة كورونا عالمنا <u>رأساً على عقب.</u>

According to Vinay and Darbelnet, this method 'a special kind of borrowing' in which the SL expression or structure is transferred in a literal translation. As illustrated in the above example, the translators applied the calque translation method by translating the idiom "upended our world" into "راسا على عقب" literary to the audience of the target language without affecting the meaning of the source text because the Arabic translation is borrowed from the English text.

Literal

Example (13) Our youth, the youth of this region, <u>look to</u> you to invest in their future.

شبابنا، شباب هذه المنطقة، <u>يتطلعون</u> إليكم للاستثمار في مستقبلهم.

In the above example, the literal translation method is applied by the translators of the Royal court. The idiom " look to you" was translated literally into يتطلعون إليكم. In this case, Literal translation resembles to great extent machine translation in which the same words rendered directly to the TL

Adaptation

Example (14) Together, <u>let's set the record straight.</u>

<u>ولا بد لنا من وضع الأمور في نصابها.</u>

As shown in this example, the translators used the adaptation method for translating the above idiom <u>let's set the record straight.</u> using the sentence ولا بد لنا من وضع الأمور في نصابها.This method of translation entails changing the constituents of the ST in a way that is compatible with the target language culture and style.

Conclusion

The findings revealed that the translators of the royal court apply Vinay and Darbelnet translation methods (1995) in translating both metaphors and idioms. namely, borrowing, claque, literal, transportation, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation. As for metaphors, the study revealed that in example (1) the royal translators used transposition method in translating metaphors by replacing the word or phrase in the SL with another word or phrase in the TL, modulation method in example (2) by reproducing the message of the original text in conformity with the current norms of the TL ,equivalence method in example (3)by finding the exact equivalent meaning of the metaphor in the source text ,borrowing method in example (4) by using either transcription or transliteration to reflect the culture of the ST ,calque method in example (5) where royal translators used special kind of borrowing so-called calque by using literal translation, literal translation method in example (6), and adaptation translation method in example (7) by altering the text in a manner that is comprehensible and acceptable to the TL readers.

As for idioms translation methods, Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) translation methods were used by the translators of the royal court. namely, borrowing, claque, literal, transportation, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation. In example (8) borrowing translation methods was used to reflect the culture of the ST, modulation translation method was used in example (9),equivalence translation method in example (10),borrowing translation method in example (11),calque translation method in example (12),literal translation method in example (13),and adaptation translation method in example (14).

Based on the present study's findings. It is recommended to examine another aspect in metaphors and idioms which is style since this study is confined to semiotic semantic aspects of metaphors and idioms. This study contributes in narrowing the gap between the culture of the English language and the Arabic language when using metaphors and idioms, it also paves the way for more researches in the translation of metaphors and idioms and many other figurative language

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