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# **Translating Ideologies of Arab News into English: A Critical Discourse Analysis**

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## Abstract

According to Hatim and Mason (2005), there is a clear distinction between translating ideologies and ideologies of translation (p.119 - 122). The latter merely represents the ideological framework adopted by the translator in certain social contexts. The former, however, means the degree of text reproduction and manipulation in transferring or communicating ideologies in the process of translation, which is the main concern of the present research. In both translation and political media discourse studies, researchers analyze various linguistic manifestations pertaining to texts so that it would be possible to uncover ideologies in text and talk. Consequently, the synergy between critical discourse analysis (CDA) and translation studies (TS) yields itself to a full understanding of analyzing political discourse in multilingual communication through media. The current study seeks to analyze translated news published in Arab Media about the policy of the United States of America (U.S) in the Middle East. The main aim is to shed light on how Arab Media, especially news articles, perceives the American ideologies and policies in the Middle East. Moreover, the present study makes use of critical discourse analysis to investigate the role of ideology in the process of translating news editorials in the Middle East written in Arabic and their translations into English.

**Keywords:** Media Translation – Critical Discourse Analysis – Translating Ideologies – Arab News

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## 1. Introduction

In both translation and media discourse studies, researchers analyze various linguistic manifestations pertaining to texts so that it would be possible to uncover ideologies in text and talk. Schäffner (2004) highlights the role of mass media in communicating political discourse in a critical approach to translation studies. She also stresses that translation contributes to propagating political discourse through media. Schäffner adds:

It is through translation that information is made available to address beyond national borders; and it is very frequently the case that reactions in one country to statements that were made in another country are actually reactions to the information as it was provided in translation. (2004, p. 120)

Consequently, the synergy between (CDA) and translation studies (TS) yields itself to a full understanding of analysing political discourse in multilingual communication through media. The current study seeks to analyse translated news published in Arab Media about the policy of the United States of America (U.S) in the Middle East. In this sense, the source texts included in the study are news articles from an American online news website entitled *Watching America*. As described in the homepage of the newspaper, it "reflects global opinion about the United States. This is done by providing news and views about the United States published in other countries". A major section (Foreign News Sources) in *Watching America* is dedicated to news about America, published in the Middle East in Arabic and their translations into English. The main aim of this news stream is to shed light on how Arab Media, especially news, perceives the

American ideologies and policies in the Middle East.

## 2. Objectives of the study

The main aim of the current study is to critically analyze Arab news about the policy of the U.S in the Middle East, which is mainly written in Arabic, in comparison to its English translation in order to investigate the transformations or mediations of different ideologies through the translation process. In order to measure the validity of the main objective of the current research; that is, analyzing the ideological transformation in the process of translating Arabic news media into English, the current research aims to:

- Examine the linguistic patterns that are ideologically loaded in the corpus of original editorials versus their translations in the translated editorials.
- Identify various ideologies and ideological shifts in the translated editorials of *Watching America*.
- Identify the translation strategies involved in the process of translating editorials.
- Examine the process of Applying TS; especially mediation through translation and how ideological shifts or transformations affect the degree of mediation in translated editorials published in *Watching America*.

## 3. Critical Discourse Analysis Approaches

Fairclough (2013) suggests that critical social analysis has an explanatory function which does not only describe social elements pertaining to power relations, ideologies and social identities, but also explains and interprets them. In addition, Wodak and Meyer



(2009) assert that critical discourse analysts, whether studying linguistic, textual, discursive, contextual or sociological features in most of their research, refer to Halliday's (1994) systemic functional grammar. This "indicates that an understanding of the basic claims of Halliday's grammar and his approach to linguistic analysis is essential for a proper understanding of CDA" (Wodak, 2001, p. 8). Therefore, the following section sheds light on the literature of different approaches to CDA.

The first model of CDA is that of van Dijk (1988 a) in which he integrates his theoretical assumptions of critical discourse with news discourse in the Press. In his study of news analysis, van Dijk categorizes news analysis into micro and macro structural levels. The latter refers to the thematic/topic structures of the news, while the former pertains to semantic, syntactic, lexical, cohesion and coherence structures. van Dijk suggests that "together with the lead, the headline forms the summary of the report, which strategically serves as the expression of its macrostructure or thematic structure" (p.226). However, news microstructure, which represent the local meaning of texts, entails "the meanings of words, word groups, clauses, sentences, and sentence connections" (p.170). Later, ideologically based theoretical approaches have dominated most of the studies conducted using CDA; especially those studies conducted by van Dijk (1988a. 1988b, 1995, 1996, 1998a, 1998b, 2003, 2006). van Dijk's (1995) approach to ideological analysis has entailed three categories; namely, social, cognitive and discourse analysis. He suggests that the social analysis entails studying the "overall societal structures" of discourse, that is, the context of discourse. Moreover, he states that mental models "are often articulated along US versus THEM dimensions, in which speakers of one group will generally tend to present themselves or their own

group in positive terms, and other groups in negative terms” (van Dijk, 1995, p. 22). Finally, the discourse analysis approach includes all the textually-based structures, such as syntax, local semantics, lexicon, schematic structures ..., etc.

Another approach to CDA is Wodak’s (1996) discourse sociolinguistic approach. According to her, the discourse sociolinguistic approach can be defined as “an approach capable of identifying and describing the underlying mechanisms that contribute to those disorders in discourse which are embedded in a particular context” (p. 3). Another important approach adopted by Wodak and Ludwig (1999) is the discourse historical method in which they define discourse as “historical, that is, it is connected synchronically and diachronically with other communicative events which are happening at the same time or which have happened before” (p. 12). According to them, readers of a certain written discourse perceive texts differently based on their historical background knowledge.

A more recent approach to CDA is summed up in Fairclough’s (1995a) analytical framework of CDA. This framework constitutes a three-dimensional analysis of text, discourse practice and sociocultural practice. Text analysis –as its name suggests –includes formal grammar, vocabulary, cohesion, and semantics. Fairclough (1995a) suggests that text-based analysis entails “representations, categories of participant, and constructions of participant identity or participant relations” (p. 58). On the other hand, discourse practice includes institutional process – such as editorial procedures – and discourse process, which entails the changes that texts undergo in production and consumption. Finally, sociocultural practices are mainly concerned with the sociocultural context of any communicative event, and are categorized into economic, political and cultural.

#### 4. Translation, Ideology and CDA

van Dijk (1998a, 1998b, 2003, 2006) formulates a full-fledged theory of Ideology, including a whole system of what he names "ideological discursive manifestations" (1998a, p.5). Under the umbrella of CDA, van Dijk (2003) identifies eight ideological discourse structures entailing meaning: propositional structures, formal structures, sentence syntax, discourse forms, argumentation, rhetoric, and action and reaction. Ideologies, hence, are abstract beliefs that are expressed, mediated and conveyed through discourse. Since translated texts, as well as original texts, are instances of communicative discourse, they represent a proper medium for ideologies in order to be expressed and conveyed.

Hatim and Mason (2005) differentiate between two concepts: "ideology of translation" and "translation of ideology" (p. 120). The former is represented in the fact that translation as a process is far from being non-ideologically loaded. For instance, translators translate texts (whether literary, legal, scientific, political ..., etc.) which bear ideological significance, they work in agencies or institutions that have ideological biases and they also have different cultural backgrounds which make them perceive and render ideologies differently. This brings us to highlighting the second concept, that is, the "ideology of translating". Hatim and Mason (2005) illustrate that the "translator, as processor of texts, filters the text world of the source text through his/her own world-view/ ideology, with differing results" (p. 122). This does not mean that translators are the only control factor in the process of translating ideologies, however, they are individuals who interfere changeably in transferring or mediating the ideologies embedded in different kinds of discourse.

Saldanha (2009) asserts that “from the point of view of CDA, translation is seen as a process of mediation between source and target world views, a process that is inevitably influenced by the power differentials among participants” (p. 150). Based on Halliday’s (1994) model, Hatim and Mason (2014) greatly contribute to the research done in CDA and TS. They mainly focus on analysing shifts in transitivity and modality which bring about shifts in the ideational and interpersonal functions of TTs respectively. Moreover, Hatim and Mason (2014) devote a thorough analysis to analysing shifts in translating ideologies through CDA theories. They differentiate between three kinds of mediation in the process of translation; namely, minimal, partial and maximal.

The main aim of the present study is to adopt a methodological synergy between CDA and TS to analyze ideologies in media political discourse, accordingly, a clear understanding of “Ideology” and its relation to CDA and TS is crucial at this point. van Dijk (2003) defines Ideologies as “the fundamental beliefs of a group and its members” (p. 7). Despite the fact that ideologies are abstract group of beliefs, they can be directly expressed or indirectly imbedded in text and talk.

## 5. Data Collection

The collected data of the present study consists of news editorials translated from Arabic into English. They are authentic texts in an online mainstream newspaper entitled *Watching America*. As previously mentioned, the rationale behind choosing editorials is that they are the most suitable discourse domain for investigating ideologies of the Press. van Dijk (1988b) states that even “fact discourse” represented in proper news articles are not opinion free, as he states “implicit opinions can be expressed or signalled

even in the most factual news report” (p. 124). However “explicit opinions” of journalists and press agencies, as van Dijk (1988b) further suggests, are prevalent among editorials.

For reasons of objectivity and unbiased criterion of selection, the current research follows a random selection of editorials about the U.S policy in the Middle East from the point of view of different journalists in the Middle Eastern Press from 2016 till 2020. The following is a list of (9) editorials that are selected for the present research analysis.

Table 1: List of the original and translated headlines

Original Editorials' Headlines	Translated Editorials' Headlines	Author	Translator	Editorials' source
فوبيا ترامب وبوتين	Putin-Trump Phobia	مفتاح شعيب M e f t a h Shoeib	J o s e p h McBirnie	Al-Khaleej (U.A.E.)
ترامب واللاجئون السوريون	Trump and Syrian Refugees	سنان أنطون S e n a n Anton	D y l a n Anderson	A l - S a f i r (Lebanon)
موفد أميركي إلى سورية لا يتكلم إلا الروسية	American Envoy to Syria Only Speaks Russian	محمود قواص M a h m o u d Qawas	Evan Rosson	Al-Hayat (Lebanon)
الترامبية والسياسة الأمريكية في الشرق الأوسط	Trumpism and American Policy in the Middle East	أحمد السيد A h m e d El Sayed	D y l a n Anderson	A l - A h r a m (Egypt)
واشنطن وإرهاب آل سعود	Washington and the Terrorism of the Saudis	محرز العلي M e h r e z Al Ali	Evan Rosson	A l - T h a w r a (Syria)
المأزق الروسي الأميركي في سوريا	The US-Russian Impasse in Syria	هاني شادي H a n y Shady	Evan Rosson	A l - S a f i r (Lebanon)

أوباما والتاريخ الفاشل	Obama's Foreign Policy: A Resounding Failure	دينا الحمد Dina Al Hammad	Evan Rosson	A l - S a f i r (Lebanon)
كارتر طعن «بختيار».. وأوباما طعن العرب جميعا!	Carter Stabbed Bakhtiar in the Back, and Obama Backstabs All Arabs!	عبد النعم إبراهيم A b d e l monemIbraheem	Erica Lush	Akhbar Al K h a l e e j (Bahrain)
دروس أميركا الكاذبة	False Lessons for America	دينا الحمد Dina Al Hammad	Christopher Cooper-Davies	Al-Thawra (Syria)

## 6. Theoretical Framework

Much research in CDA and mass media has recently evolved, especially with regard to the analysis of ideology represented in print media. For instance, Fairclough (1995a, 1995b) and van Dijk (1988a, 1998b, 1991) give a critical insight into uncovering ideological reproduction by investigating linguistic, pragmatic, textual and contextual features in print media. Since a key aim of the present research is to investigate how ideologies are transferred or rather mediated in translated print media using CDA tools, an interdisciplinary approach is adopted in the theoretical framework. First, a synergy is held between van Dijk's (2006) ideological square and Bazzi's (2009) toolkit of analyzing sensitive political texts. Then Hatim and Mason's (2005) levels of translating ideologies will be applied in determining the degree of mediation in the process of translating editorials.

### van Dijk's ideological square

van Dijk (2006) explains that "ideologies often have a polarized structure, reflecting, competing or conflicting group membership and categorization in in-groups and outgroups. These underlying structures also appear in mores specific political attitudes." (p. 734).

van Dijk (2006) further argues that these “mental models” have a fundamental control on the different linguistic, syntactic, and pragmatic contexts of any political discourse. These mental models, or as he describes “strategies”, might be represented in what he calls the “ideological square” as follows:

- Emphasize Our good things
- Emphasize Their bad things
- De-emphasize Our bad things
- De-emphasize Their good things

(Adapted from van Dijk, 2006, p.734)

According to van Dijk (2006), whenever a proposition is related to “good things”, it will be related to in-group representations of a discourse, and the opposite is true. van Dijk lists various discourse structures that give evidence to positive self-presentations and negative other- presentations. According to him, the main ideological discourse structures “that typically exhibit underlying ideologies” are those pertaining to meaning, propositions, argumentation, rhetoric, formal structures, and sentence syntax (p.42). Beneath each ideological discourse category, van Dijk (2006) subdivides them into topics and themes, local coherence, word order, passivization, nominalization, actors, modality ..., etc. Most of van Dijk’s (2006) ideological discourse structures of political texts, which emphasize or de-emphasize positive self-presentations and negative other- presentations, are significantly represented in Halliday’s (1994) functional approach of ideational, interpersonal and textual functions of language. Accordingly, the following section sheds light on Bazzi’s (2009) linguistic toolkit for analysing political sensitive language which adapts Halliday’s (1994) approach, and

then demonstrates how it will be applied to the four dimensions of van Dijk's (2006) ideological square.

**Bazzi's linguistic toolkit for politically-sensitive language analysis**

Bazzi (2009) designs a comprehensive linguistic toolkit for critically analyzing political discourse. The framework of her toolkit is a synergy between Halliday's (1994) functional approach, van Dijk's (1988b, 1998a) textual and contextual dimensions of discourse, and Fairclough's (1995a, 1995b) linguistic realizations relevant to power and ideology. Valdeón (2015) states that the significance of Bazzi's (2009) study lies in the fact that she "combines cognitive linguistics, critical discourse analysis, descriptive translation studies and functional approaches to translation" in analyzing politically-sensitive news in the Middle East. The rationale behind choosing Bazzi's (2009) toolkit is twofold; firstly, it is a comprehensive toolkit for analyzing news discourse as an instance of politically-sensitive discourse. Also, Bazzi (2009, 2014) implemented the toolkit to analyze translated news in the Arabic-English language pair, which makes it relevant to the analysis of the current study. Table 2 summarizes Bazzi's linguistic toolkit.

Table 2: *Bazzi (2009) linguistic toolkit*

Language Function	Selected linguistic feature
Ideational	Transitivity (includes agency, voice, circumstance)
Interpersonal	Mood and Modality
Textual	Texture: Foregrounded themes Lexical cohesion (collocation)

**Hatim and Mason's levels of translating ideologies**



Hatim and Mason (2005) identify three levels of mediation according to which translators “intervene in the transfer process, feeding their own knowledge and beliefs into their processing of a text; namely, maximal, partial and minimal. The formal relaying of recurrence would thus be part of a global text strategy, characterized by greater or lesser degree of mediation” (p. 121). A crucial reason for applying Hatim and Mason’s degree of mediation is that they mostly apply the same textual, ideational and interpersonal analysis method in determining the degree of mediation in analyzing translated political discourse.

According to Hatim and Mason (2005), the first degree of mediation is “minimal mediation” in which “the characteristics of the source text are made entirely visible and few concessions are made to the reader” (p.123). However, “maximal mediation” is achieved by constituting “a radical departure from the source text” and accordingly “relays a different ideology” (p. 127). Finally “partial mediation” adopts “a less extreme and more neutral” kind of translation in which some “significant shifts occur between source text and target text”. (p. 132). The three ideational, interpersonal and textual features of political discourse; summarized in processes of transitivity, modality, and lexical cohesion are investigated in order to examine the degree of mediation or transformation through the process of translating Arabic editorials into English.

## 7. Analysis

This section outlines the process of integrating the above-mentioned three analytical approaches in analyzing the English Translations of Arabic editorials. The first stage includes a synergy between the first two analytical approaches; namely, Bazzi’s (2009)

toolkit and van Dijk's (2006) ideological square. First, it investigates the ideational, interpersonal and textual shifts or transformations that occur in ideological discourse structures between the corpus of Arabic editorials and their English translations. Second, an interpretation of how various shifts during the process of translation of each linguistic feature emphasize or de-emphasize positive self-presentations and negative other-presentations is given. Finally, the third stage –in an attempt to investigate the level of mediation in translating ideologies in political discourse– concludes the process of analysis by categorizing these shifts or transformations into maximal, minimal or partial mediation.

### **van Dijk's ideological square and Bazzi's linguistic toolkit synergy**

One of the main objectives of the present study is to reveal ideological manipulations or mediations in the process of translating political editorials. As previously mentioned, the first stage of analysis implements Bazzi's (2009) toolkit in investigating ideologies of politically-sensitive texts. It is worth mentioning at this point that Bazzi (2009) based her analysis on Halliday's (1994) ideational, interpersonal and textual discourse features in order to critically analyze how "ideological conflict" is represented in discourse. Since Eastern and Western ideologies are in a continuous conflict--especially that of the American policy in the Middle East which is perceived by most of the Middle Eastern countries as interference in their political internal affairs-- the current research selects Bazzi's (2009) toolkit for analyzing ideological conflicts as its analytical framework.

### **The ideational analysis**

Transitivity represents the ideational dimension of the analysis of the editorial discourse including agency, voice and circumstance.

According to Bazzi (2009), throughout the process of analyzing transitivity, the analyst would be capable of perceiving “who is considered to be causing what to whom”, “what agents are consistently and actively incriminated”, “who are the affected participants”, “what causes are deleted or emphasized”, “what facts are conditionally related in the circumstantial element to reflect firm beliefs, cognitive bias or incriminate the ideological enemy”; in addition to recognizing “the ideological enemy or the unworthy as a foregrounded agent in an active process of violence” (p. 82). Therefore, the following section outlines the ideational analysis for a sample of the English Translations of the Arabic editorials in order to provide valid interpretations for the previously-mentioned inquiries.

#### Example (1):

ST: يؤكد ازدرء الرئيس المنتخب تقريراً سرياً لوكالة الاستخبارات المركزية (سي. آي. إيه) عن التدخل الروسي في الانتخابات الأخيرة شرخاً كبيراً، قد يؤثر، لاحقاً، على هيئة هذه المؤسسة التي تجمع مخزوناً لا نهائياً من المعلومات، ويعول على تقاريرها كل الرؤساء الأمريكيين في رسم السياسة الخارجية لواشنطن.

TT: Contempt for the president-elect also is evident in the CIA’s report, which might later tarnish the institution and jeopardize foreign policy.

**Suggested Translation:** A CIA report *about the Russian interference in the recent elections* assures the contempt for the president and might later tarnish the institution –*that collects an endless stock of information upon which all the US presidents depend*—and jeopardize foreign policy.

ازدراء الرئيس المنتخب	يؤكد	تقريباً سرياً لوكالة الاستخبارات المركزية «سي. آي. إيه» عن التدخل الروسي في الانتخابات الأخيرة
Verbiage	Verbal Process	Sayer

Contempt for the president-elect	is	Evident	in the CIA's report
Carrier	Relational Process	Attribute	Circumstance

Despite the fact that the process involved in example (1) of the source editorial is a verbal process, exemplified in the verbal process (يؤكد), the translator chooses the relational process (**is**) and its Attribute (**evident**) as equivalents to the verbal process. Furthermore, transformations in the participants –including the Sayer and Verbiage –are worth scrutinized analysis. As shown in the suggested translation of example (1), the type of participants is changed and the order of the participants is reversed in the English translation of the Arabic editorial. A superficial look into the transformation of the verbal process in the source editorial into a relational process in the target editorial would be explained as a simple transformation for the purpose of rendering the meaning. However, a deeper analysis of the participants of the process reveals that the participant “**the CIA's report**” in the source editorial changed from a Sayer which assures the Verbiage “**contempt for the president-elect**” to a prepositional phrase represented in a circumstance.

Applying van Dijk's (2006) positive self-presentation and negative other-presentation through emphasizing or foregrounding a certain participant at the expense of the other, the translator shifted the participants' order by foregrounding the Carrier, which is the “**contempt for the president-elect**”, in the translated editorial at

the expense of the Sayer “**the CIA’s report**”, which is backgrounded. Moreover, the translator de-emphasizes the Sayer, which is “**the CIA’s report**”, by deleting the circumstance ‘**about the Russian interference in the recent elections**’ in order to background the idea that there is a Russian power or dominance over the USA through interfering in its presidential elections.

Another instance of deleting circumstantial phrases to de-emphasize a specific foregrounded theme or meaning in the source editorial is analyzed as follows:

Example (2):

**ST:** فواشنطن. وفق رواية الرجل. تريد وقف الحرب واستئناف المفاوضات.

**TT:** Washington wants to stop the war and resume negotiations

فواشنطن	وفق رواية الرجل	تريد	وقف الحرب واستئناف المفاوضات
Senser	Circumstance	Mental Process	Phenomenon

**Suggested Translation:** Washington, *according to the man’s version of the story*, wants to stop the war and resume negotiations.

Washington	_____	wants	To stop the war and negotiations
Senser	_____	Mental Process	Phenomenon

According to Halliday (1994), circumstantial component of the transitivity structure “serves as an expansion of something else” (p. 151). This expansion form, as Halliday suggests, can elaborate, extend or enhance a certain clause. As shown in the suggested translation of the previous example, the translator intends to delete and forthwith de-emphasize the circumstance “*according to the man’s version of the story*” which refers to the American special

envoy to Syria, Mr. Michael Ratney.

Applying van Dijk's (2006) theory of positive self-presentation and negative-other presentation to the process of the ideational analysis, the source editorial expresses a certain fact; that is, Washington wants to stop the war in Syria, but this fact is conditionally related to Ratney's version of the story, which may not be the true intention of the USA according to the editorial's point of view. Thus, the translator – due to preferred readership ideologies of the news website “watching America” – chooses to background the idea that Washington may have hidden intentions behind its special envoy's declaration, which asserts de-emphasizing any ‘bad thing’ about the United States.

### **The interpersonal analysis**

The interpersonal analysis of the current research highlights various shifts and transformations of the modality system among the Arabic and English editorials. That is to say, this analysis allows pinpointing the variations in the degree of truth, accuracy, obligation, reliability .., etc. or any other dimension in the modality structure of a specific proposition. The current interpersonal analysis of the editorials applies Bazzi's (2009) interpersonal analysis text strategies, which include modal auxiliaries, mood adjuncts, the use of perception modalities and modal quantifiers. As Bazzi puts it, the prior-mentioned modality markers “can help the analyst to conclude the predetermined judgment of the text producer regarding a political event” (p. 86). Similarly, van Dijk (2003) asserts that modality has “something to do with the way we represent the world and its events”, and accordingly represents positive self-presentation through emphasizing the ‘Good things’ and de-emphasizing the ‘Bad things’ while the opposite is applicable to

negative-other presentation (p. 51).

One of the most crystal clear transformations in translating modality structures is analyzed as follows;

Example (3):

**ST:** وقد يكون هذا بتحريض كثير من حلفاء واشنطن، خصوصاً من الأوروبيين، المتخوفين بشدة من أي تفاهم أمريكي روسي مقبل على حساب مصالحهم الدولية.

**TT:** *The instigators are many* Washington allies, especially the Europeans, who are wary of any American understanding with Russia.

**Suggested Translation:** *The instigators may be many* Washington allies, especially the Europeans, who are wary of any American understanding with Russia.

As shown in the suggested translation of the source editorial, it is explicitly mentioned that the instigators “*may*” be European Washington allies, which typically entails the probability of the proposition in the statement. However, for expressing a different attitude towards the proposition as a whole, the translator has totally ignored the probability and has shifted it to factuality by stating that the instigators “*are*” European Washington allies. Applying van Dijk (2006) ideological square, the translator has emphasized how the European allies are ascertained to be instigators against any American-Russian understanding –which is understood as a negative other presentation of the Europeans –via deleting the modal auxiliary modal “*may*”. This transformation indicates how ideologically different the editorial producer dealt with power relations in the given proposition through manipulations in its modality structure.

Another striking instance of modality structure transformation

resides in the shifts of modal quantifiers. The following example is from the editorial entitled “Trump and Syrian Refugees”. A modality quantifier shift is located as shown in the following analysis:

Example (4):

**ST:** ليست حدود أميركا مفتوحة على مصراعيها للهاريين من الحروب والصراعات. كما يظن الكثير من الأميركيين

**TT:** The American borders are not wide open to those fleeing wars and conflicts, *as is thought by a number of Americans.*

**Suggested Translation:** The American borders are not wide open to those fleeing wars and conflicts, *as is thought by many Americans.*

The suggested translation of the previous example shows another intended deviation from the original editorial, where the translator has deleted the Arabic modality quantifier “الكثير” that is equivalent to the English modality quantifier “many”. The deletion process of the quantifier de-emphasizes the negative connotation it gives that many Americans think of the refugees as a burden that flees into their wide open borders of the United States. However, substituting the quantifier “many” with the word “number” gives the impression that only a number of Americans –that are not many –who think of refugees as a burden which the United States should cast away and close its borders to. Thus, the modal quantifier analysis in the prior mentioned example applies van Dijk’s (2006) ideological square by de-emphasizing any negative connotation implied by its modality structure.

### The textual analysis

According to Bazzi (2009), textual functions –including thematic and lexical selections –of political texts in media discourse “are important textual devices in legitimating the text producers’



undisputed beliefs about a political event and its causes and to position their readership” (p. 87). Bazzi –following Halliday (1994) – applies two of the most salient features in the textual analysis, which are “foregrounded themes” and “lexical cohesion”. As previously mentioned in the methodology section, foregrounded themes are either “marked” or “predicted”. Marked –as well as predicted themes –are themes that are foregrounded in a specific proposition at the expense of the main subject.

A transformation in the marked theme is located in the fourth editorial of the translated text entitled: “Washington and the Terrorism of the Saudis”, as follows:

Example (5):

لم يعد خافيا على كل متابع لما يجري في العالم العربي من كوارث مدى:ST  
تورط الولايات المتحدة الأميركية في ذلك عبر تقديمها احدث أنواع الأسلحة للدول التي  
تمارس الإرهاب

**TT:** *For those following what's going on in the Arab world, it's no longer a secret how involved the United States is in the calamities through its supply of the latest weaponry to states that engage in terrorism.*

**Suggested Translation:** *It is no longer a secret for those following what's going on in the Arab world, how involved the United States is in the calamities through its supply of the latest weaponry to states that engage in terrorism.*

لم يعد خافيا	على كل متابع لما يجري في العالم العربي	مدى تورط الولايات المتحدة الأميركية
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Subject	Rheme	Theme
---------	-------	-------



For those following what's going on in the Arab world,	it's no longer a secret	How involved the United States
--	-------------------------	--------------------------------



Theme	Rheme	Subject
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The suggested translation of the previous example shows that the English translation of the Arabic editorial has adopted a marked theme strategy by foregrounding a certain theme at the expense of the subject; that is, “the involvement of the USA”. The translator has inverted the Theme-rheme order, which subsequently has changed the dominant theme. The journalist of the source editorial has foregrounded the theme “**It is no longer a secret**” to stress the fact of incriminating the USA in a secret involvement in every destruction happening in the Arab countries; however, the translator of the editorial has intentionally decided to invert the theme to “For those following what’s going on in the Arab world” in order to background the dominant marked theme in the source editorial. This instance of transformation through inversion of marked themes order also conforms to van Dijk’s (2006) theory of de-emphasizing “Our Bad things”, that is, the fact that “**it is no longer a secret**” for anyone that

USA is involved in illegal actions like supplying “**latest weaponry to states that engage in terrorism**”.

Another textual tool implemented in the ideological analysis of the current research is the lexical cohesion. As mentioned previously in the methodology section, ideological based collocations can be examined through different lexical strategies, such as, chain complexes, over-lexicalization and under-lexicalization. The following example represents an instance of under-lexicalization of the translated editorial “Carter Stabbed Bakhtiar in the Back, and Obama Backstabs All Arabs”.

Under-lexicalization mainly entails reducing the intensity of a certain word in a collocation by substituting a less negative or intense word, which accordingly reproduces other ideological assumptions. The following example signifies a transformation in collocation.

Example (6):

الوثائق السرية الأمريكية كشفت أن «الخميني» طلب من إدارة الرئيس **ST** :  
الأمريكي جيمي كارتر عام ١٩٧٩ التدخل لإسقاط حكومة رئيس الوزراء الإيراني «شاهبور  
بختيار».

**TT:** Recently *declassified American documents* reveal that in 1979 Khomeini asked the Carter administration to intervene in overthrowing the shah of Iran, Shapour Bakhtiar.

**Suggested Translation:** *Secret American documents* reveal that in 1979 Khomeini asked Carter’s administration to intervene in overthrowing the shah of Iran, Shapour Bakhtiar.

Secret American documents



declassified American documents

In the previous example, the journalist of the original Arabic editorial has intended to use the noun collocation “الوثائق السرية”, which is equivalent to “**secret documents**” to incriminate the USA in hiding important documents. However, the translator of the editorial has substituted the collocation with another less intense –or less reduced as Bazzi (2009) puts it –which is “declassified documents”. In that sense, the translator has chosen –among many other translation choices –underlexicalization to give the impression that documents have not been secret nor hidden, but simply recently published or made public. In an attempt to relate the previous textual transformation to van Dijk’s (2006) ideological square, the current research can claim that the translator has substituted the collocation in the previous example to de-emphasize the fact of incriminating the USA in any negative deeds.

Hatim and Mason (2005) state that “the translator, as processor of texts, filters the text world of the source text through his/her own world-view/ideology, with differing results” (p.122). Significantly, translators do not only filter the source text according to their ideology, but also according to their news agencies’ ideologies and interests. The previously analysed political discourse – which is represented in the Arabic-English editorials) – is collected from the online mainstream newspaper *Watching America* whose readership and ideology can be summarized in highlighting how the Middle eastern countries perceive American policies. Through a critical synergy between Bazzi’s (2009) toolkit of analyzing sensitive political texts and van Dijk’s (2006) ideological square, many translation transformations have been produced –including deletion, addition, inversion, and substitution –in the ideational, interpersonal and textual

discourse structures.

### **Identifying the degree of mediation in the ideational, interpersonal and textual analysis**

Mediation, according to Hatim and Mason (2005), is a “global text strategy” that can be minimal, partial or maximal depending on the degree of departure from the source text. It is worth mentioning at this point of the analysis that the translators’ choices of whether to abide by the content and deviate from the style, and whether to conform to the equivalent meaning and deviate from structural forms are not at all ideologically neutral. However, different ideologically-motivated mediations are done by the translators in an attempt to translate political texts.

As stated by Hatim and Mason (2005), minimal mediation happens when the translator chooses to deviate minimally from the target text by making the source text totally visible to the reader, while very few adaptations are made to the text. Referring to the previously-mentioned ideational, interpersonal and textual analysis of the Arabic source editorials versus the English translations, it is clear that minimal mediation cannot be applied to the transformations located in translated editorials. The same applies to partial mediation, where the translator decides to choose less neutral transformations –via processes of adaptation –in the process of translation rather than resorting to any extreme changes like deletion and/or transformation.

Finally, maximal degree of mediation –as asserted by Hatim and Mason (2005) –entails a great deal of departure in different structures and meanings of the source text, which accordingly constitutes different ideology. As depicted in the previous stages of analysis, translators of the sample editorials have resorted to deletion, addition, inversion, and substitution as translation strategies in various

ideational, interpersonal and textual discourse structures. These various transformations in the target texts yield themselves to what Hatim and Mason (2005) define as maximal degree of mediation.

## **8. Conclusion**

Most of the studies conducted in the related fields are recent and lack full-fledged applicable model of analysis. In an attempt to adapt relevant theories that complement each other in the process of analysis, the present study has investigated ideological transformations in the process of translating editorials from Arabic to English.

As far as the current study is concerned, a single genre in media political texts; that is, editorials, has been investigated to attain comparability conditions. Moreover, three structures of texts; namely, ideational, interpersonal and textual, have been investigated to provide an analysis of ideologically-based mediation or transformation in the process of translating editorials. Accordingly, for future research projects, studies of media source texts, which belong to different genres and their translations, are recommended to be further analyzed. It is also recommended to investigate more linguistic patterns pertaining to ideological analysis. It is worth mentioning that integrating translation studies and critical discourse analysis theories aims to provide concrete evidence and further support for various translation studies.

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