Omission in Simultaneous Interpreting: A Multidisciplinary Perspective to U.S. Presidential Debates

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Abstract

This paper attempts a new categorisation of omission in simultaneous interpreting through exploring and investigating omission in the simultaneous interpreting of U.S. presidential debates from English into Arabic in order to improve the interpreter's performance. This is not an attempt, however, to answer the question why the interpreter uses omission, intentionally or impromptu, because it is not a cognitive study of the reasons why this phenomenon occurs. Instead, it aims to evaluate omission in real, professional contexts to determine how far omissions convey the functions of presidential debates. The data is collected from the second 2016 U.S. presidential debate between the two candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. An interdisciplinary approach combining between interpreting studies (especially Pym's Risk Analysis 2008) and political sciences (basically Benoit's Functional Theory of Political Campaign Discourse 2017) is employed. The paper reaches the conclusion that there is a gap in understanding omission in interpreting a discourse type as such from English into Arabic and that interpreters used omission in their renditions, a matter which affected the three functions of presidential debates. Omission should be accounted for in the light of an interdisciplinary approach combining between a multi-layered linguistic and pragmatic analysis, interpreting studies and a functional theory of political campaign discourse. The product and its potential impact(s) for the aims of communication determine the level of functionality entailed in the interpretation: 'functional', 'nonfunctional, or 'semi-functional''. If the interpreter becomes aware of the functions of this discourse type and how it behaves, then his performance should presumably be improved; and at this particular point, further empirical, experimental research is recommended.

Keywords: simultaneous interpreting, omission, presidential debates, functional theory of political campaign discourse

1. <u>Introduction</u>

A distinguished feature of the research on omission in simultaneous interpreting has been the contentious nature of this phenomenon. Despite the big number of studies in this regard, there is no general agreement on what omission is or on the descriptions given to it: acceptable/unacceptable, valid/invalid, strategic or technique/error or mistake, ethical/unethical, etc. Generally, the classical categorisation of

'omission', defined as 'an incomplete rendition of the information present in the source language' (2012:103), fluctuates between two extreme poles of being either an error or a strategy. Few attempts have tried other approaches. Yet, the decision to omit or not is still confusing.

With the increasing interest in analysing the simultaneous interpretation of international political discourses, like the presidential campaign discourse for instance, the need for a new categorisation of, or a new perspective to, omission emerges. Therefore, this study attempts a new categorisation of omission through exploring and investigating omission in the simultaneous interpreting of U.S. presidential debates from English into Arabic, more precisely the second 2016 U.S. presidential debate between the two candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, in order to improve the interpreter's performance. It does not attempt to answer the question why the interpreter used omission, intentionally or impromptu, because this is not a cognitive study of the reasons why this phenomenon occurs. Instead, it evaluates omission in real, professional contexts to determine cases where it becomes 'functional', 'nonfunctional' or 'semi-functional' in conveying the functions of presidential debates. In so doing, it adopts a challenging, multidisciplinary approach which combines between interpreting studies and political sciences.

This study is significant because it explores omission in simultaneous interpreting from a new challenging perspective, an interdisciplinary approach combining between interpreting studies and political sciences. It also attempts a new categorisation of omission based on three functions of campaign discourse. Moreover, as omission can affect the profession and the interpreter-audience trust relationship, such a topic becomes vital in improving the interpreter's performance, the interpretation services provided in the field and the customers' satisfaction over the services offered. Furthermore, in regard to election campaigns and candidates' images, omission emerges as a strategy or an error that can potentially distort the original message and, consequently, may deform the candidates' image. The Arabic misinterpretation or miscommunication, too, may influence some votes of Arab-American citizens and Arab TV viewership. A candidate may lose or get a vote as a result; a matter which may demolish the very idea of interpreting presidential campaigns since the candidates' ultimate aim is to get as many votes as possible. If the large number of probable Arabic-speaking TV viewers is put into consideration, one can imagine how grave it is to judge an interpreted

debate, since viewers may end up judging the interpreter's performance rather than the candidates'.

In addition to this introduction, the study is divided into four sections: a review of the literature, a theoretical framework, the method of research and data analysis and discussion.

2-Review of the Literature

Most scholars who have investigated omission deem it as a mistake. Barik (1971:199;1994:121) argues that 'the interpreter may omit some material uttered by the speaker.. resulting in not saying quite the same thing as the speaker'. He categorises omissions into four types (1971:200-2;1994:122-124). *Skipping* (a minor word or a short phrase omitted) does not affect the grammatical structure of the interpreted rendition and results in minimal loss of meaning; examples include the omission of adjectives, prepositions and conjunctions to restructure the sentence. Such a type of omission is of minor importance and is generally acceptable in the profession. *Comprehension omissions* (the interpreter does not understand or is unable to produce part of the text) involve larger pieces of the original material and lead to a 'definite loss' of meaning. It can also result in a disconnected rendition. *Delay omission* (omission of a stretch of text) is thought to be attributed to a lag in the interpreter's performance so he omits some parts to catch up. The last type is a subcategory of comprehension omissions with an assumed difference that it does not refer to a problem in comprehension or the ability to express in the target language. Actually it is merely a delay in the performance. Finally, *compounding omission* (where the interpreter groups elements), even though it may give the impression that the interpretation maintains the gist of the message, implies a 'slight' alteration in meaning forming a new entity. In other words, Barik deems omission as a mistake and a technique only under severe circumstances, when interpreters experience a cognitive overload. In this case, only omissions of empty fillers, hedges and connectives, for example, can be acceptable. The following remarks should be raised here. First, this classification is, to some extent, subjective since it overlooks other reasons for omission. Second, it is difficult to tell whether the interpreter omitted something because of a failure in comprehension or in production. Further, who said that a compounding omission results necessarily in a 'slight', not a grave, alteration in meaning?

Similar to Barik's, Wadensjo categorises omissions due to skipping, comprehension and delayed performance and ascribes the adjectives 'close' and 'divergent' to the interpreter-mediated renditions (1998:103-26). Meanwhile, Kopczynski talks about two types of omissions: errors of

performance and errors of receptive competence. The first type occurs because of 'memory lapses, failure to choose the optimal moment for interpreting, time pressure, fatigue, etc.', while the second is attributed to a failure in understanding the source message (Kopczynski 1980:86-8). This error-oriented classification into errors of performance and errors of receptive competence is arbitrary because the interpreting process consists of comprehension, verbalization and production according to the classical Interpretive Theory. If Kopczynski refers to production as 'performance', then how memory lapses would fit into performance?

Jing (2011:3) also criticizes this subjective classification of errors based on the causes attributed to the interpreter only, and excluding external factors. Scholars like Cokely (1992), Moser-Mercer, Kunzli and Korac (1998) and Russel (2000) approach omissions as mistakes too (cf. Napier 2004:117-142). Altman (1994:28-9) writes that omissions result from a difficulty in processing terms which are coined by the speaker, from a failure in comprehending the meaning of a word or dwelling on it for some time, or from lexical problems. He gives many examples for omission where it results in a loss of information or a slight change in meaning at best. Again, the issue of personal judgment rather than objective analysis arises to the surface, e.g. he overlooks contextual factors (Jing 2011:3). Regardless of the reason(s) for omission, Setton (1999:246) defines omissions as 'uncorrected speech acts that reveal a lapse in self-monitoring due to a distraction from centered attention'.

In discourses like courtrooms', the Professional Standards and Ethics for California Court Interpreters (2013:5), for instance, does not allow interpreters to omit at any circumstances, arguing that 'It is not within the discretion of the interpreter to decide which portions of the testimony and proceedings will and will not be rendered into the target language'. Ahmed (2017) explains that in simultaneous court interpreting, there is the risk of judging the performance and the message of the interpreter instead of those of the defendant or the speaker; therefore, the interpretation should be both complete and accurate. Accuracy implies neither the intervention of court interpreters as presented in the actual performance of her sample interpreters, nor the literal, verbatim, almost 'machine' translation, stated in many codes of ethics. It means, she adds, 'the interpreter must retain every and each piece of information mentioned in the original message, in as close to a verbatim translation as natural English or Arabic style, grammar, syntax and impact on end receivers will allow' (ibid:22).

Contrary to this opinion, other scholars suggest that omission is a strategy, not a mistake, employed by interpreters. Enkvist maintains that errors should be accounted for in terms of 'the communicational objectives' or the communication effect between the speaker and the receivers (1973; quoted in Jing 2011:5). Sunnari (1973) refers to three situations where the interpreter uses omissions: the ideal situation (he says it all without omission), the counter-ideal situation (he does not say it at all), and the pseudo-ideal situation (he faces a more difficult task than expected). The most common interpreting strategy of omission in the first situation is the 'deletion' of unimportant, repeated, irrelevant information. But, would the deletion of such information render the situation ideal in any discourse type? The present study answers this question in due course.

When exposed to an external difficulty, Gile (1995:173;1999) claims, such as a 'high rate of delivery', 'high density of the informative content', 'strong accents', and 'incorrect grammar and lexical usage', interpreters are forced to omit, perhaps unconsciously, what they cannot extract the message from the source utterance. Gile's Efforts Models Theory (1999) discusses the omissions that result from the complexity of the interpreting task which pushes the interpreter to work near or below the saturation level. He mentions two reasons for omissions if the interpreter delivers successful renditions: the complexity of the source speech and the mental overload involved in the process of interpreting he is not talking about reasons attributed to deficient linguistic competence, insufficient extra-linguistic background, and poor delivery of the source utterance. He refers to 'trivial' and 'legitimate' omissions.

Yet, Korpal (2012:104) wonders: 'Is it possible for an interpreter to omit certain information deliberately due to the fact that some segments have been assessed as redundant or dispensable because they are implicitly present in the discourse? Do omissions necessarily indicate lesser quality? But the answer to these problematic questions is not as simple as it seems. He discusses five cases of omissions: repetitions of exactly the same words, redundancies, cultural allusions, empty fillers/discourse markers and speaker's subjective assessment. Korpal says:

> It is possible (and sometimes even desirable) for an interpreter to deliberately omit certain elements of the source speech for pragmatic reasons: in order to make the rendition more concise and coherent, devoid of superfluous digressions and message redundancy, as well as to dispose of information that is implicitly present in the speech and, thus, irrelevant for the delegates. (ibid.)

The interpreter, according to Viaggio (2002:239), should not render whatever deemed a redundant information, parasitic, irrelevant or incomprehensible; he ascribes the adjectives valid/invalid to omissions. Also in Visson's (2005) opinion, omission is a necessary technique to make the rendition more coherent.

On the other hand, some scholars approach omission from a pragmatic perspective arguing that in the field of translation/ interpretation, some alterations like omission sometimes become 'consciously' 'unavoidable' (Newmark1988; Fowler1991; Bell1991; Baker1992; Fairclough1995; Venuti 1998; Gutt2000; Hatim& Mason2004; Bielsa& Bassnett2009). Jones (1998:139) approaches omissions not to tell whether they are errors or strategies, but to explain reasons for their occurrences referring to two types: those resulting from duress and those from editing. In the first case, the interpreter has to omit under stressful situations (e.g. a speedy speaker). In the second, he can produce more complete renditions with the use of omissions to 'achieve economy of expression, ease of listening for the audience, and maximum communication between speaker and audience' (ibid:104-5). The two types seem to be conscious processes, Jing (2011:9) comments, thus unconscious reasons are overlooked. Pym (2008), on his part, categorises omission in the light of the quality of the context of the source speech and the product as explained in the next section.

Using a descriptive approach based on the Structural Functional Grammar Theory and observational research, Jing (2011) combines theories from translation and interpretation studies and linguistics to communication. His data analysis works at three levels: statistics, discourse and self-reflexivity. He proposes 'structure' (clause and below-clause) and 'meaning' (ideational, interpersonal and textual) omissions. His analysis reveals that familiarity with the source speech (e.g. vocabulary, sentence structure, idiomatic expressions, speaker's accent, speech style and social and cultural backgrounds) and the interpreter's personality (i.e. impatience or hesitation) may cause omissions.

From this review of the literature, there seems to be a gap in the understanding of the phenomenon of omission in simultaneous interpreting. There is much controversy on the definition of omission itself, its causes, the cases where it can be acceptable or unacceptable, and the adjectives describing the quality of the product. Lacking the essential theoretical background and systemic explanations of omission reasons, most studies appear intuitive and prescriptive. With the exception of courtroom discourse, scholars often agree to omitting repetitions,

redundancies, false starts, fillers, etc. as a general rule of thumb, and thus disregard the possibility that discourse types can behave differently. For these reasons, the present paper investigates omission in simultaneous interpreting and attempts a new categorisation. From the review of the literature, the research problem and questions have been stated.

3. Theoretical Framework

As mentioned above, this study uses an interdisciplinary approach combining between interpreting studies and political sciences. It starts with explaining the underpinnings of Pym's Risk Analysis (2008), then it reviews Benoit's Functional Theory of Political Campaign Discourse (2017) and its rationale.

3.1 Risk Analysis

Pym (2008) addresses the issue of omissions and implicit information in simultaneous interpreting from a pragmatic point of view. Definitely the optimum situation is when interpreters do not omit, but real practices show a general tendency for omissions. Although some surveys reveal that the highest concern for the users of the interpreting services (who might be satisfied with interpreting only essential information but with a pleasant voice) is not message completeness, Pym (2008:84) argues. Interpreters strive to be complete as much as possible. This opinion doubtfully holds good at many formal settings. Gile's Efforts Models analyses the consorted efforts which expertise interpreters should perform in order to reach this completeness regardless of the relevant social context, for four general purposes: Listening and Analysis, Short-term Memory, Speech Production and Coordination of these Efforts (Gile1995:169). Pym adopts this model as the theoretical ground for his study 'On Omission in Simultaneous Interpreting' with some modifications.

Gile's (1999:159) Models focus on errors and omissions resulting from the complex nature of the interpreting task, where the cognitive overload is metaphorically represented as the tightrope on which walkers have to balance their bodies. Similarly during the interpreting process, interpreters should co-ordinate their efforts and work near or just below the saturation level to produce complete renditions complete does not necessarily mean interpreting everything. But in situations where omission occurs, he concludes two possible reasons: the complexity of the original speech and the complexity of mental processing. Yet, defying the idea that non-omission is always desirable, Pym disagrees to the traditional stream looking at simultaneity and completeness as a context-free action that may be studied as an independent cognitive activity. Pym

advocates that the interpreter can omit 'without jeopardizing the fundamental aims of the communication act' (2008:93).

Simultaneous interpreting research investigates quality without reference to context or models (cognitive or neurological) regardless of any context too (Pym2008:93). Therefore, Pym reinterprets, from a quality- and context-sensitive perspective, the data in the two experiments Gile carried out to incur his Efforts Models. If the omission of false starts, for instance, is valid, then quality does not mean interpreting everything. Quality then, according to Pym, 'must be a measure of the extent to which a communication act achieves its aims, and that is precisely the direction in which we would like to take our analysis' (ibid). Interpreters, thus, should distribute their efforts in the light of 'communicative risks'; 'risk' is defined as 'the probability of non-cooperation between the participants' (ibid.). This implies that they work hardest on those situations or problems which probably invoke high risks. Hence interpreting means a distribution of risk-based efforts along context-sensitive communication. In other words, interpreting is a 'risk management' of the 'communicative act'.

Omissions are labeled low-risk and high-risk by Pym (2008:83-105). On the one hand, low-risk omissions are 'part of a general economy of time management' and of minor importance generally (ibid.95). He asserts that simultaneous interpreters routinely omit false starts, hesitations and unnecessary repetitions and he even deems such omissions an improvement in the interpreter's performance 'basically since such improvements in the quality of discourse are seen as part of the interpreter's service function' (ibid.89). On the other, high-risk omissions require added capacity to solve high-risk problems; interpreters here must manage their cognitive resources, i.e. efforts, and prioritize the problems to convey successfully an accurate message, because 'decision-making requires both cognitive resources and contextualization' (ibid.95).

Additionally, Pym postulates that any significant gap in the interpreter's rendition would likely be labeled as high-risk, for the audience can easily recognize that the speaker is talking while the interpreter is not producing parallel renditions. Finally, Pym maintains that 'Our hope is that this minor intervention will encourage others to think critically about context, and about the way it might interact with interpreting as a set of independent professional skills' (ibid.85). This is what the present study attempts to do, but it replaces the concept of 'risks' with that of 'functions' and approaches the issue of omission from a multidisciplinary perspective.

3.2 The Functional Theory of Political Campaign

In 2012, the U.S. election presidential campaigns cost over a billion dollar spent by Obama, Romney and political groups (Wilson2012). In 2016, 3.8 billion dollars was raised for Democrats and Republicans in primary and general elections, the Washington Post reported on 19 October 2016. Many studies reveal remarkable effects from watching TV advertising, like political campaigns. 'Exposure to political advertising was consistently related to voter belief change' (McClure and Patterson1974:16). Candidates use TV spots in their political campaigns for the tremendous effects they have on viewers (Hitchon and Chang1995). Gordon and Hartmann (2013:33) point out that their 'findings illustrate that advertising is capable of shifting the electoral votes of multiple states and consequently the outcome of an election'. Jacobson assures that 'A review of the evidence leaves no doubt election campaigns do matter in a variety of important ways' (2015:31). Eventually, the effects of political campaigns can be either positive or negative.

Benoit (2017:10-11) notices that content analysis of TV spots and advertisements is common in the literature, analyzing mostly functions (positive/ negative ads) or topic (issue/image ads), not both and that it does not report inter-code reliability. Moreover, few studies address other kinds of election messages like election campaigns. The Functional Theory was developed by Benoit in response to limitations in the existing content analysis of election campaigns. 'The candidates' election messages which constitute campaigns deserve scholarly attention. One approach to understand (them)..is provided by the Functional Theory of Political Campaign Discourse' (Benoit 2017:9). This approach has received growing interest from scholars, like Nai and Walter (2015) who use it as a baseline to measure negative campaigning. Hrbkova and Zagrapan (2014:736) assume that Benoit's is 'the most influential attempt at systematic analysis of political debates based on a specific theoretical construct'. Isotalus (2011:31) says 'One of the most used and systematically tested theories in the studies of the content of television debates has been functional theory'.

According to Benoit (2017:12-3), this theory makes five assumptions about election campaigns:

1-Voting is a comparative act.

2-Candidates must stress areas of contrast between themselves and their opponent(s).

3-Citizens get information about candidates and their issue stands through election messages from various sources including media debates.

4-Candidates use messages that employ three functions: acclaims (the candidate's strengths or advantages), attacks (an opponent's alleged weaknesses or disadvantages) and defenses (response to or refutation of attacks made against a candidate).

5-Election discourse addresses two topics: policy and character. It classifies the topics of policy into past deeds, futures plans and general goals, and the topics of character into personal qualities (personality), leadership ability (experience in elective office, ability to lead) and ideals (values or principles).

Generally, 'acclaims' can increase a candidate's assumed benefits; 'attacks' may add to the costs of an opponent; and 'defenses' are capable of reducing the costs of the candidate (ibid.8). The Theory, however, does not advocate that the three suggested functions of presidential campaigns would inevitably be appellative to the viewer and persuade him to vote for or against some candidate. It also does not assume to have an answer to every question on political campaign messages either. Visual elements and metaphors, for instance, are still unexplored. Yet, these limitations do not belittle the remarkable value of the Theory in analysing such a discourse.

4. Method of Research

From the review of the literature, it is concluded that omission in simultaneous interpreting is still problematic in spite of the many studies approaching it, mostly either from a cognitive perspective or a linguistic one. Therefore, this study attempts to explore the phenomenon further. The aim is not testing the voters' attitudes during political campaigns or in the election process, or measuring how positively or negatively the candidate's image is affected by the simultaneous interpretation. These can be the focus of other meta-analysis studies. Also as mentioned before, it does not attempt to answer the question why the interpreter uses omission. Instead, it seeks to show how far omissions manage to convey the functions of presidential debates. The following two questions are formulated:

1-How can omission in the Arabic simultaneous interpreting of U.S. presidential debates affect the encoded message in the candidates' instrumental use of acclaiming, attacking and defending?

2-How omissions can be categorized in the light of the three functions of the political campaign discourse?

Based on these questions, the study embarks to set the objectives as follows:

-To collect representative data from U.S. presidential debates and its Arabic simultaneous interpreting;

-To set a profile for both the source discourse and the target rendition from a Risk Analysis perspective;

-To set another profile for both the source discourse and the target rendition from the perspective of the Functional Theory of Political Campaign Discourse;

-To compare each two profiles to identify the shifts;

-To analyse the shifts and categorise them;

-To make, meanwhile, statistical data on the three functions; and

-To discuss statistical results and their significance to the study and draw some reliable and valid conclusions.

The work was carried out within the context of the second 2016 U.S. presidential debate between the two candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, which represents the original English data. Clinton and Trump squared off at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri on Oct. 9, Sunday, 9 p.m. EST. The related video was retrieved online from the NBC Chanel, streaming the event live. Then, the Arabic rendition is retrieved online alike, from the simultaneous interpretation broadcast on Al-Jazeera Mubasher channel, and published on 10 October 2016. Two simultaneous interpreters collaborated together during the debate that lasted for about 93 minutes. Only the candidates' answers to four questions, lasting about 25 minutes with the questions, were transcribed and analysed because the ideas in the rest of the data are no more than repetitions of the part already extracted and would not add value to purposes of the current study. The same holds true of the Arabic renditions. The first four questions in the debate are distributed by two famous interviewing TV presenters, Cooper and Raddatz, as follows: a question for both Hillary and Trump to acclaim, two questions for Trump to defend and a question for Hillary to defend:

Debate question 1 (To Hillary and Trump): '..do you feel you're modeling appropriate and positive behavior for today's youth?'

Debate question 2: 'Mr. Trump, about the tape that was released on Friday, as you can imagine.. You described kissing women without their consent, grabbing their gentiles. That is sexual assault. You bragged that you have sexually assaulted women. Do you understand that?'

Debate question 3: 'Trump says the campaign has changed him.. When did it happen?.. When you walked off that bus at age 59, were you a different man or did that behaviour continue until just recently?'

<u>Debate question 4</u> (To Hillary): 'You've said your handling of your e-mails was a mistake. You disagreed with FBI Director, James Comey, calling your handling of classified information, quote, "extremely careless".. You don't call that extremely careless?'

All events which were deemed as departures, however minor they are, from the original utterance were noted and encoded. That is to say, through a comparison of the target rendition to its corresponding original message, the omissions were identified. Sometimes it was difficult, though, to decide whether a certain expression in the source message is 'omitted' or substituted. So identifying omission in the data was based on a definition of omission as an utterance said in the original but missed in the interpretation. The decision to consider a phrase or a chunk of words as one unit of omission, which would be considered later as F (Functional), SF (Semi-Functional) or NF (Non-Functional) to draw conclusions, stemmed from the meaningfulness of this unit.

Through an observational, qualitative and quantitative research, using content analysis and comparison as tools of analysis, this study explores omission in the data from a multidisciplinary approach taking its major tenets from interpreting studies (particularly Pym's Risk Analysis and Gile's Efforts Models), including pragmatics, and Benoit's Functional Theory in political sciences. The rationale behind the basic division of data analysis and discussion into three sub-sections is attributed to Benoit's three functions of political campaign discourse, namely acclaims, attacks and defenses.

5. Data Analysis and Discussion

In this section, acclaims, attacks and defenses (the three functions of political campaign discourse) frame the division of data analysis and discussion into sub-sections. Each of the two candidates, Hillary (H) and Trump (T), tries hard through acclaims about character or policy to attract the viewers and voters to the good traits in their characters and/or their past or present deeds that entitle them to provide evidence for future policy campaign plans. Fundamentally, candidates use policy and character attacks, too, as a substantial strategy capable of changing the viewers' attitudes towards the opponent. The candidate's defenses against accusations from the other opponent, the TV presenters or the audience can affect the functionality or otherwise non-functionality of the messages, i.e. they can affect the intended messages. Functionality or non-functionality here means successful or unsuccessful communication

of the intended message with its intended function(s). Similarly the simultaneous interpretation may influence the target audience. The manipulation of functions by speakers and interpreters alike would be decisive in forming images about the candidates and consequently influencing audience's attitudes.

5.1 Acclaims

The results of data analysis of omissions in the simultaneously interpreted acclaims are presented in the following table:

Table1: Omissions in Candidates' Rendered Acclaims

Ex	C/T	Acclaims with Omissions Bold	Ch/Po	F/NF/SF	Notes
[1.1]	C	.. to reach out to **every** boy	Po	NF	
		and **girl**,	Po	NF	
		as well as **every** adult,	Po	NF	
		to bring them into working on behalf of our country.	Po	NF	
[1.2]	C	I have a **very** positive and optimistic view about ..	Po	NF	
[1.3]	C	..**because I think** if we work together	Po	F	
[1.4]	**C**	the best education system.. **and so much else**	Po	NF	
[1.5]	T	Well, **I ..agree with that**. I agree with everything she said.	Po	F	Redundancy
		Actually	Po	F	Filler
[1.6]	C	**Obviously**, I'm hoping to earn your vote,	Po	SF	Adverb
		I'm hoping to be elected in November.	Po	F	Repetition
[1.7]	C	I want us **to heal our country and** to bring it together	Po	SF	Redundancy
		..the future that our children **and our grand children** deserve	Po	SF	Redundancy
[1.8]	T	.. **that I've been doing this as a politician.**	Po	NF	Sentence
		I cannot believe I'm saying that about myself,	Po	NF	Sentence
		but I guess I have been a politician.	Po	NF	Redundancy
[1.9]	T	**We're going to make great deals**..	Po	NF	Sentence
		We're going to bring back law and order	Po	NF	
		.. we have to take care of people **on all sides**.	Po	NF	Sentence
[1.10]	T	..I **want** to do things that haven't been done,	Po	F	
		including fixing and making our inner better	Po	F	Redundancy
		for the African-American **citizens that are so great**.	Po	NF	
[1.11]	T	**I will knock the hell out of ISIS**. We're going to defeat ISIS.	Po	NF	Redundancy
[1.12]	T	(borders) **which we don't have now**..	Po	NF	
		We're going to make America safe **again**.	Po	SF	
		We're going to make America great **again**,	Po	F	
		but we're going to make America safe again.	Po	SF	Repetition
		And we're going to make America wealthy **again**,	Po	F	
		.. **it sounds harsh to say**,	Po	NF	Explanation
		but we have to build up the wealth of our nation.	Po	NF	Repetition
		.. **And that's what I want to talk about.**	Po	NF	

[1.13]	C	..this is the America that **I know and** love .. if I'm **so** fortunate **enough** to become your president.	Ch Ch	NF F	
[1.14]	T	**I'm going to help** the Latinos, Hispanics. **I'm going to help** the inner cities.	Po Po	SF SF	Repetition Repetition
Total			37 ------ Po35 Ch2	19NF 11 F 7 SF	

C stands for Clinton, T Trump, Ch Character, Po Policy, F Functional, NF Non-Functional and SF Semi-Functional
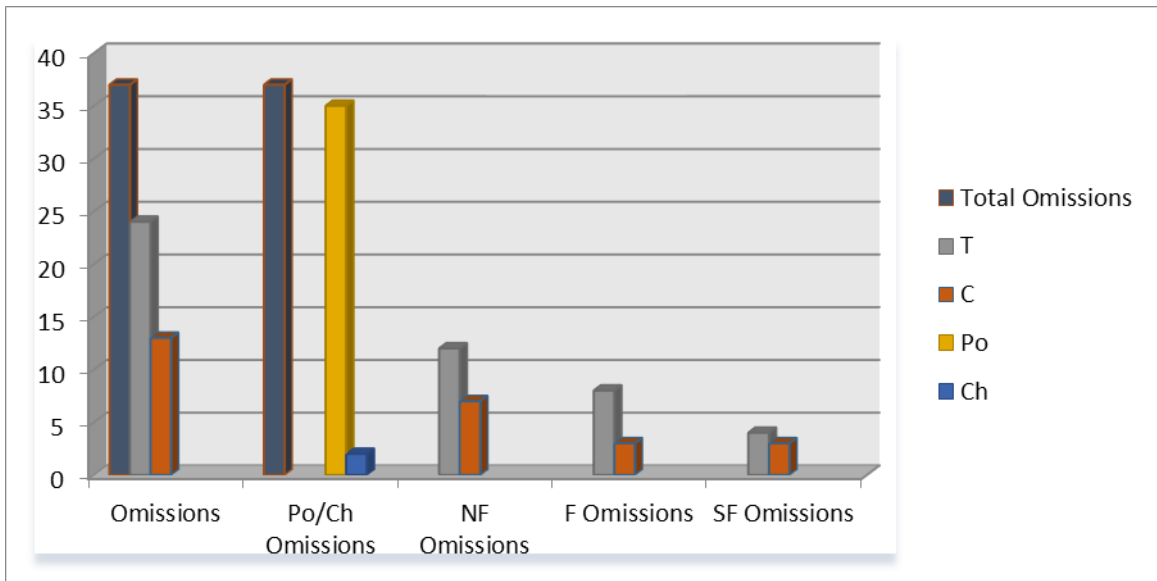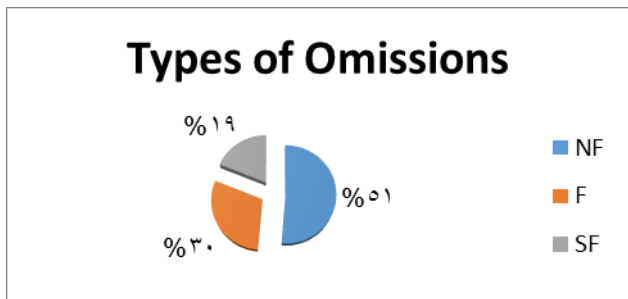

Chart 1: Acclaims Omissions

Chart 2: Types of Omissions (NF,F, and SF)

The results of analysing omissions in the rendered acclaims show that the total omitted acclaims are 37; 24 omissions for Trump's and 13 for Hillary's. 35 omissions are related to policy acclaims and 2 to character acclaims. Of the 37 omissions, 19 for NF, 11 for F and 7 for SF. NF omissions are 12 for T and 7 for C. F omissions are 8 for T and 3 for C. SF omissions are 4 for T and 3 for C.

In an answer to debate question 1, whether the candidate feels s/he is modeling appropriate and positive behavior for today's youth or not, Clinton defends by acclaiming that she will reach every boy and girl. Therefore, the omissions in [1.1] are NF as they fail to convey the original function of the utterance, and so is the omission of 'every' in [1.2]. But the omission of 'because I think' by the interpreter (abbreviated as SI) in [1.3] is still F as the message is communicated implicitly in the rendition.

[1.1] **Clinton**: ..and we are going to try to reach out to **every** boy and **girl**, as well as **every** adult, **to bring them into working on behalf of our country**.

وسوف نحاول أيضاً أن نتواصل ما بين الصبيان والفتيان وأيضاً البالغين وأن-

[1.2] **Clinton**: I have a **very** positive and optimistic view about what we can do together.

أنا لدي نظرة متفائلة وإيجابية حول ما يمكن أن نحققه سوياً.

[1.3] **Clinton**: ..**because I think** if we work together

وأننا إذا عملنا سوياً

Clinton acclaims that she has 'a very positive view' of what she and all Americans can do together and that she has big policy goals for the educational system and for many other issues:

[1.4] **Clinton**: ..and I have set forth some big goals..making sure that we have the best education system.. **and so much else**.

SI: وأنا قد وضعت أهدافاً كبيرة..وأن نتأكد أن لدينا أفضل نظام تعليمي.

The interpreter omitted 'and so much else' and rendered the educational system only, which denies the other future policy acclaims Clinton promised voters with. This is a high risk omission, Non-Functional NF, since it does not convey the communicative function of acclaims, entailed in the Speaker's utterance. Trump, too, defends by making policy acclaims, [1.5], and the interpreter was able to convey the message despite the omission of the redundancy in 'I agree with that' and of the filler 'actually'.

[1.5] **Trump**: Well, **I actually agree with that**. I agree with everything she said.

نعم، أنا أتفق مع كل ما ذكرته.

As a norm, some omissions appear to be used habitually by interpreters, thinking they do not jeopardize the message. For instance in [1.6]:

[1.6] **Clinton**: **Obviously**, I'm hoping to earn your vote, **I'm hoping to** be elected in November.

وأنا أتطلع لأن آخذ أصواتكم وأن اُنْتَخَب في نوفمبر.

the SI omitted the adverb 'obviously' and repetition in 'I'm hoping'. Though still communicative, the first omission is Semi-Functional SF because Clinton asserts that her diligence to win presidential elections must be obvious to everyone i.e. she deserves winning in her point of view. While the second is Functional F since it is implicit in the rendition. Also, the omission of 'to heal our country', [1.7], as an apparent redundancy for 'to bring it together', fails to convey the acclaim that Clinton has a long way to go to heal the country after the many disappointments caused in eight years of Obama administration. Then she can talk of bringing it together. The omission is, thus, SF:

[1.7] **Clinton**: I want us **to heal our country and** to bring it together because that's, I think, the best way for us to get the future that our children **and our grand children** deserve.

أود أن أوحد الجميع لأنني من وجهة نظري أفضل طريقة التي يستحقها مستقبل أولادنا.

The same applies to omitting 'and our grand children', which refers to a longer term plan than that meant for 'our children', an SF omission. True it can be inferred implicitly from 'our children' but not as clearly as Clinton's deliberate and smart reference.

Trump, who is tired of 'seeing such foolish things happen to our country', acclaims that he is the man for presidency and that one of his personality traits is being well-connected as a politician, [1.8]. Then realizing he should show more humbleness to impress viewers, he adds the remark that he cannot 'believe' he is saying this; but assures the idea of being a politician again:

[1.8] **Trump**: I've gotten to know people of the country over the last year and a half **that I've been doing this as a politician. I cannot believe I'm saying that about myself, but I guess I have been a politician.**

وأنا عرفت كثيرا من الأمريكيين خلال السنة ونصف الماضية أثناء حملتي للترشح للانتخابات.

The three omissions, NF, fail to communicate these character acclaims. In [1.9], the interpreter omitted an important answer to a question Trump raises: "who's going to make great deals?' Such an omission is NF since it overlooks a whole sentence of policy acclaim. Trump's acclaim to 'bring back law and order' is also

[1.9] **Trump**: You say who's making these deals? **We're going to make great deals**. We're going to have a strong border. **We're going**

to bring back law and order.. we have to bring back respect to law enforcement. At the same time, we have to take care of people **on all sides**.

من الذي يقوم بتنفيذ هذه الاتفاقات؟ نحتاج إلى حدود قوية واقتصاد قوي. علينا أن نعيد الاحترام لرجال الشرطة ورجال الأمن، كذلك الاهتمام بالجميع.

missing in the rendition, another NF omission. 'on all sides' asserts the same idea of campaign propaganda; therefore the omission here, NF, does not convey Trump's intended message to take care of people, not on one or two sides, but on 'all' sides. Meanwhile, the interpreter omitted 'want', [1.10], but the rendition communicates the source message that he will do things which has never been done before. With some consecutive frustrating U.S. administrations, the novelty in his thinking and the way to address issues are presented to the voters as a salvation from such a deteriorating situation. The interpreter managed to communicate this acclaim function despite omitting 'want' and 'including fixing' (equivalent to the redundant structure 'and making.. better'); both are F. Trump in the same example talks about African-Americans not only as 'citizens', i.e. having the same rights as white Americans a sensitive issue for a candidate

[1.10] Trump: ..I **want** to do things that haven't been done, **including fixing** and making our inner better for the African-American **citizens that are so great**.

سأقوم بأمور لم تحدث من قبل. تحسين الظروف الاجتماعية والظروف بالنسبة الأمريكيين السود.

who aspires to get their votes and win presidential elections_ but also 'that are so great'. Hence, the omission of this part is high risk, NF, and does not communicate this acclaim at all.

In an attack question against Trump, he was asked about the tape released just before the debate, where he sexually assaulted women. He defends himself in a couple of sentences like 'I didn't say that at all' and even shows regret like 'I'm not proud of it'. More importantly, he quickly moves the audience's attention from defense to acclaim, to a topic which comes on top of any serious agenda, namely terrorism. He mentions first, [1.11], that 'he' will 'knock the hell' out of ISIS note the violent, aggressive and decisive action of knocking the hell out of something. Then realizing the value of teamwork for a successful president, he repeats the sentence but with the pronoun 'we', instead of 'I' and with a formal language appropriate for a president in 'defeat'. Thus the two sentences, which seem redundant on the surface, are actually not, and the interpreter's high risk

[1.11] **Trump**: **I will knock the hell out of ISIS**. We're going to defeat ISIS.

أنا سأركز على هزيمة تنظيم الدولة.

omission of the first one misses a whole panorama of analyses that the target audience could have incurred from the rendition. In other words, contrary to the norm, the omission of redundancies may lead to the non-functionality of the interpretation.

When the TV presenter tried to bring him back to the same issue of sexual assault, Trump answers that he has 'great respect for women' and deviates to policy acclaims regarding the country borders, [1.12]:

[1.12] **Trump**: We're going to have borders in our country, **which we don't have now**.. We're going to make America safe **again**. **We're going to make America** great **again**, **but we're going to make America safe again**. **And we're going to make America** wealthy **again**, because if you don't do that, it just- **it sounds harsh to say**, **but we have to build up the wealth of our nation**. - Right now, other nations are taking our jobs and they're taking our wealth.- **And that's what I want to talk about.**

نريد أن نعزز الحدود وال نسمح للمهاجرين أن يدخلوا ويأتوا إلى بلادنا من منطقة الشرق الوسط وغيرها. نحن نعمد إلى جعل أمريكا أكثر أماناً وأكثر عظمة وأكثر ثراءً لأننا إذا لم نحقق ذلك قد- فهذا سيجعلنا يجعل الدول الأخرى أكثر ثراءً هذه التي تريد أخذ فرص العمل وغيرها.

He attacks the present U.S. policy that leaves the borders unsafe ('which we don't have') and this is what he is going to make when he comes to office. So, omitting this phrase is NF. He deliberately uses the word 'again' four times to refer to golden times, to 'safe', 'great', 'safe' and 'wealthy' America. The interpreter rendered the second sentence 'We're going to make America safe' and used conjunctions to connect it to the next two sentences condensed into the Arabic adjective structures 'greater and wealthier'. The comparison structure is not mentioned in the original message, which makes the rendition inaccurate. Simply stated, the omission of the repetition in 'We're going to make America safe again' and substituting it with the interpreter's mediation and explanation of the speaker's message as 'We should not allow refugees immigrate from the Middle East and other areas into our country', makes this interpretation SF because why refer to the refugees from the ME for instance and lose a point for the opponent? The redundancy in 'We're going to make America (great) again' and 'And we're going to make America (wealthy) again' is F and grammatically correct and, indeed, a strategy by interpreters to save

effort and manage time. Omitting whole sentences, like 'it sounds harsh to say' and 'but we have to build up the wealth of our nation', is NF and may affect the trust-relationship between the audience and the interpreter if the former notices the gap in interpretation, i.e. the speaker talks and no simultaneous interpretation is produced.

Asked to respond to what Trump said, Clinton seizes the opportunity to attack her opponent of insulting women and raises questions about his fitness to be a president. She invests her position as the First Lady during her husband's presidency and as a State Secretary during Obama's. Most of the time, she claims her character to be that of a knowledgeable person. Therefore, in the sentence 'this is the America that I know and love,[1.13], the NF omission of 'I know' fails

[1.13] **Clinton**: ..this is the America that **I know and** love.. this is the America that I will serve if I'm **so** fortunate **enough** to become your president.

هذه هى الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية التي أحبها.. بأن هذه هى الولايات المتحدة التي سأخدمها إذا كنت محظوظة وأصبحت الرئيسة.

in conveying the candidate's acclaimed knowledge Unlike the omission of the political rhetoric 'so..enough', which is non-risky, the message (if she is fortunate to become the president) is communicated to the target audience. The omission of repetition may be sometimes Semi-Functional as in [1.14] where the speaker repeated the phrase 'I'm going to help' three times, while the interpreter used

[1.14] **Trump**: I'm going to help the African-Americans. **I'm going to help** the Latinos, Hispanics. **I'm going to help** the inner cities.

أنا أريد أن أساعد الأمريكيين السود والأمريكيين اللاتينيين وكذلك من يقيمون في وسط المدينة.

conjunction instead of repetition. The question is: what is the difference between the speaker's repeated form and the interpreter's? In other words, the stress on repeating 'I'm going to help' is definitely different from 'I'm going to help African-Americans, Latinos and inner cities'. Repetition here can indicate either Trump's insistence on helping those people and refuting Clinton's accusation that 'he also targeted immigrants, African-American, Latinos, people with disabilities, POWs, Muslims, and so many others', or his attempt to take time (through repeating the same structure over and over) and think about whom he is going to help. Hence, the use of the conjunction technique communicates partly the basic meaning of the original message.

The results shown in Charts 1 and 2 reveal that the interpreters tended to use omission more often when rendering Trump's acclaims (24 out of 37) than Clinton's (13/37). Since 35 acclaims are related to policy, one

may conclude that the simultaneous interpretation distorted Trump's policy acclaims messages more than Clinton's. Of the total 35 omissions, many omissions were Non-Functional (19): 4 were full sentences (a matter which may constitute a gap in the performance and affect the trust relationship between the interpreter and the audience) and the other 15 cases were phrases. 12 NF omissions were recorded for Trump and 7 for Clinton; again the risk is bigger for Trump's interpreted acclaims. Nearly one third (11) of the omissions communicated the message successfully, functionally (8 for Trump and 3 for Clinton). Meanwhile, 7 cases were noticed for Semi-Functional omissions (4 for Trump and 3 for Clinton).

Most importantly, the interpreter's mediation to explain the source utterance was noticed in one case [1.12] and conveyed the source message only partly, SF, which means that such mediation is somehow risky as it fails in communicating the speaker's intended function from this discourse. It is also noticed he omitted repetition almost habitually: 3 F and 2 SF. This means that the rule of thumb for simultaneous interpreters, 'to omit repetition to save effort and time', needs reconsideration because omission may not fully communicate the source intended function. Another norm, the omission of redundancy, should be reconsidered; 2 cases F, 2 SF and 1 NF. That is to say, as much as the omission of redundancy can be non-risky and functional, it can be non-functional and also semi-functional in double the cases investigated.

5. 2. **Attacks**

The following table presents the results of data analysis of omissions in the simultaneously interpreted attacks:

Table2: Omissions in Candidates' Rendered Attacks

Ex	C/T	Attacks with Omission Bold	Ch/ Po	F/ NF/SF	Notes
[2.1]	T	**and health care is going up by numbers that are astronomical**	Po	SF	
		68 percent,	Po	NF	Number
		59 percent,	Po	NF	Number
		71 percent.	Po	NF	Number
			Po	NF	Number
[2.2]	T	at the Iran deal **and how bad a deal it is for us**,	Po	NF	
		..a terrorist state, **really**, **the number one state**,	Po	NF	
		..a strong country from **really** a **very** weak country	Po	NF	
		just three years ago.	Po	NF	Number
[2.3]	T	**In other words**, trading with other countries.	Po	F	Filler
		We had an $800 billion deficit. **It's hard to believe**.	Po	SF	
[2.4]	C	**Well**, like everyone else..	Po	F	Filler

		you know, with prior Republican nominees	Po	F	Filler
		I disagreed with them on **politics**, **policies**, principles	Po	NF	
[2.5]	C	denigrating **a former** Miss Universe	Ch	NF	
		in the harsh**est**, **most personal** terms..	Ch	NF	
		raises questions about his fitness to be **our** president.	Ch	SF	
[2.6]	T	It's just words, **folks**.	Ch	F	Filler
		..in New York, where Hillary was going to bring back jobs to upstate New York	Po	NF	Sentence
		..which are a disaster education-wise, **job-wise**, safety-wise,	Po	NF	
		in every way possible.	Po	NF	
[2.7]	T	**She wants their vote,**	Po	NF	Sentence
		We saw that the firsthand when **..**	Po	NF	
		She campaigned where the primary part of her campaign-	Po	NF	Segment
[2.8]	T	Mine are words, **and his was action**..	Ch	NF	sentence
		never been anybody **in the history politics in this nation**	Ch	NF	
[2.9]	T	and **attacked them** viciously	Ch	F	Repetition
		.. one of the women, **who is a wonderful woman,**	Ch	NF	
			Ch	NF	
		at 12 years old, was raped at 12.	Ch	NF	
		Her client **she represented got him off**	Ch	NF	
		and she's seen laughing on two separate occasions, laughing at the girl **who was raped**.	Ch	NF	
			Ch	NF	
		Kathy Shelton, that young woman is here			Name
[2.10]	T	**Paula Jones,**	Ch	NF	Name
		who's **also** here tonight.	Ch	F	
[2.11]	C	**Well**, first, let me start by saying	Ch	F	Filler
		..**Instead of** answering people's questions,	Ch	NF	
[2.12]	C	whose son, **Captain Khan**, died	Ch	NF	Names
		in the line of duty in Iraq..	Ch	NF	
		He never apologized to the reporter that he **mimicked**	Ch	NF	
		.. And he **never** apologized for the racist lie..	Ch	NF	
[2.13]	T	**Well,** you owe the president an apology,	Ch	F	Filler
		because as you know **very well**,	Ch	SF	
		..Sidney Blumenthal_ **he's another real winner**	Ch	NF	
		..and they were on television **just two weeks ago..**	Ch	NF	Time
		..the one that **sent the pictures around your campaign**, .. with President Obama **in a certain garb**.	Ch	NF	
			Ch	SF	
		That was **long** before I was ever involved,	Ch	SF	
		so you **actually** owe an apology.	Ch	F	
[2.14]	T	**And I've gotten to see some of** the most vicious commercials **I've ever seen** of Michelle Obama	Ch	F	Repetition
			Ch	SF	
		talking about you, **Hillary**.	Ch	SF	

[2.15]	T	**So, you talk about friend?**	Ch	NF	Sentence
		.. where you won, but not fair and square, **in my opinion**.	Ch	SF	
		And all you have to do is take a look at Wikileaks	Ch	NF	Sentence
		and just see what they say about Bernie Sanders	Ch	NF	Sentence
			Ch	NF	Sentence
			Ch		
			Ch		
		and see what Deborah Wasserman Schultz had in mind,	Ch	NF	Name
		because Bernie Sanders	Ch	NF	Sentence
		between super-delegates	Ch	NF	Sentence
		and Deborah Wasserman Schultz,			
		he never had a chance.			
		And I was so surprised to see him sign on with the devil			
[2.16]	T	**and that you acid washed,**	Ch	NF	Sentence
		and **then** the two boxes of e-mails	Ch	NF	
		and other things **last week** that were taken from an office	Ch	NF	Time
[2.17]	T	**And I'll tell you what**. I didn't think I'd say this,	Ch	F	Filler
		but I'm going to say it**, and I hate to say it.**	Ch	NF	Sentence
		because there has never been so many lies, **so** much deception.	Ch	NF	
		There has never been anything like it..	Ch	NF	Sentence
[2.18]	T	When I speak, **I go out and speak**…	Ch	NF	Sentence
		In my opinion,	Ch	SF	
		the people that have been **long-term** workers at the FBI..	Ch	NF	
		There has never been anything like this,	Ch	NF	Sentence
		where e-mails	Ch	F	Segment
		_ and you get a subpoena, **you get a subpoena**,	Ch	NF	Sentence
		.. **and then you acid washed them or bleach them**,	Ch	NF	Sentence
		as you would say,	Ch	F	Filler
		very expensive process.	Ch	NF	
[2.19]	T	..because **you know what**?	Ch	F	Filler
		People have been_ their lives have been destroyed **for doing**..	Ch	NF	
		And it's a disgrace.	Ch	NF	Sentence
		And honestly, you ought to be ashamed of yourself.	Ch	NF	
[2.20]	T	she didn't know **the word_** the letter C on a document.	Ch	F	
		Right?	Ch	NF	
		She didn't **even** know	Ch	NF	
		what the word	Ch	NF	
[2.21]	T	**You know,**	Ch	F	Filler
		it's amazing. I'm watching Hillary go over facts	Ch	NF	Sentence
			Ch	F	Filler

			Ch	NF	
		.. **you know**, what she did with the e-mails was fine .. **I don't think so**.	Ch	NF	Sentence
[2.22]	T	her daughter's **wedding**, **number one**.. **Well**, **maybe we'll give three or three or four or five or something.** **33000 e-mails deleted,** **and now she's saying there wasn't anything wrong. And more importantly,** **That wasn't before**.. **And I'll be honest**, I am disappointed in Congressmen.	Ch Ch Ch Ch Ch Ch Ch	NF F NF NF NF F NF	Filler Sentence Sentence Sentence Segment Sentence
[2.23]	T	**Our justice Department**, where **our** husband **goes on to the back of an airplane** .. **days before a ruling is going to be made on her case**	Ch Ch Ch	NF NF NF	Sentence Sentence
[2.24]	T	**If you did that in the private sector**, you'd be put in jail, **let alone** after getting a subpoena **from the United States Congress**	Ch Ch Ch	NF NF NF	
Total			104 ------- Ch 85 Po 19	NF 72 SF 10 ------- F 19	

C stands for Clinton, T Trump, Ch Character, Po Policy, F Functional, NF Non-Functional and SF Semi-Functional
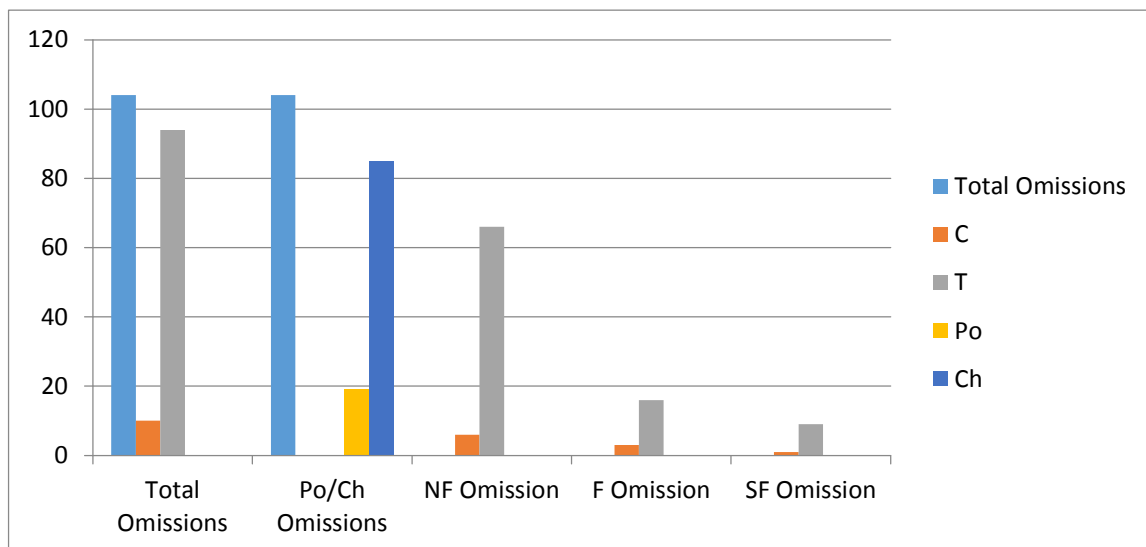
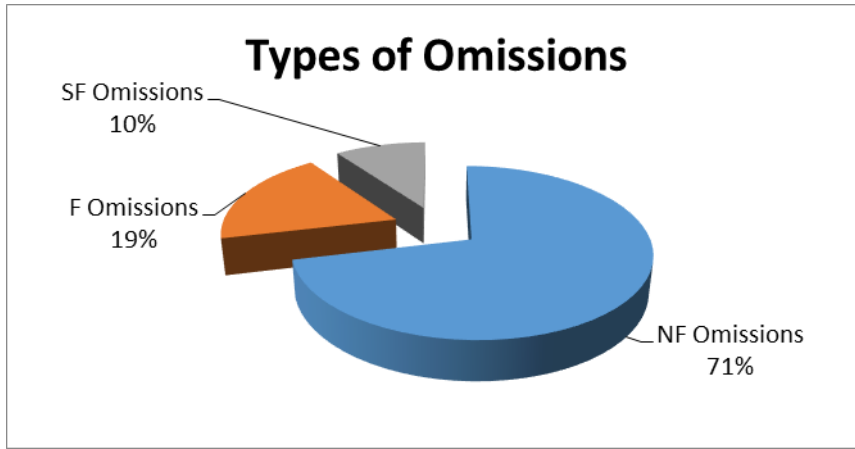Chart 3: Attacks Omissions

Chart 4: Types of Omissions

The results of analysing omissions in the rendered attacks show that total omissions are 104, 94 omissions for Trump's and 10 for Hillary's, 19 omissions are related to policy attacks and 85 to character attacks. Of the 104 omissions, 72 for NF, 19 for F and 10 for SF. NF omissions are 66 for T and 6 for C. F omissions are 16 T and 3 C. SF omissions are 9 for T and 1 for C.

Responding to question 1, Trump attacks the policy of Obama administration at that time. He harshly criticizes the Obama care system and how health care has increased hitting astronomical figures. The omission of 'and health care is going up by numbers that are astronomical', though it may be implicitly incurred from 'what's happening with some horrible things', is SF so log as the rendition does not refer directly to health care, just to any horrible things. Meanwhile, the language of numbers constitutes a real challenge to simultaneous interpreters. Such (NF) omissions of numbers surely fail in communicating the source message; they overlook the strength of numbers which a candidate can manipulate to support his attack against the opponent's policy or a character, for

[2.1] **Trump**: When I watch what's happening with some horrible things like Obama care, where your health insurance **and health care is going up by numbers that are astronomical, 68 percent, 59 percent, 71 percent**.

وتأملوا فيما يحدث من أمور فظيعة مثل نظام أوباما كير أومثل نظام التامين الصحي وخصوصاً في ظل تضاؤل النمو الإقتصادي.

example. In fact, the Arabic phrase 'especially amidst the deterioration of economic development' is an addition by the interpreter rather than a mediation for explanation; it does not explain a previous sentence or idea.

Trump attacks the U.S. deal with Iran [2.2], one definite point for him against Obama and his administration, particularly Clinton. He describes the deal as "how bad a deal it is' and Iran as the 'really' 'number one' terrorist state in the world. The two ideas are omitted in the Arabic rendition and thus do not convey the speaker's intention:

[2.2] **Trump**: When I look at the Iran deal **and how bad a deal it is for us**, it's a one-sided transaction where we're giving back $150 billion to a terrorist state, **really**, **the number one state**, we've made them a strong country from **really** a **very** weak country **just three years ago**.

وكذلك صفقة أو الاتفاق النووي الإيراني الذي هو من طرف واحد قمنا من خلاله بإعادة 150 مليار دولار لهذه الدولة الدولة الإرهابية وجعلنا من كونها دولة ضعيفة إلى دولة قوية.

Also, the omission of 'really a very' totally disregards the degree of weakness Trump refers to. The interpreter omitted 'just three years ago' too, a crucial piece of information about Iran that should have been rendered in the interpretation. The four omissions are NF. Moving to the U.S. trade deficit, the two omissions in [2.3] are less functional. 'In other words', a filler, was omitted without distorting the original message. It is not used as a restatement or paraphrase conjunction; instead, it is a continuation of the first sentence:

[2.3] **Trump**: Last year, we had almost $800 billion trade deficit. **In other words**, trading with other countries. We had an $800 billion deficit. **It's hard to believe**. Inconceivable.

العام الماضي وصل العجز التجاري إلى من 800 مليار دولار مع دول كثيرة. بلغ مقدار العجز التجاري 800 مليار دولار و هذا أمرٌ لا يُعقل.

Again, the interpreter omitted the redundancy in 'it's hard to believe' and 'inconceivable', although such a rendition (SF) fails somewhat to convey Trump's insistence on his harsh attack against previous policies.

Interpreting Clinton's response to Trump's answer to debate question 2, the interpreter in the next example functionally omitted the fillers 'well' and 'you know' without affecting the source message, but his omission of 'politics, policies' is definitely non-functional since the original message is talking about Clinton's disagreement with previous Republican nominees specifically regarding politics, policies, principles, among others perhaps. These items cannot simply be overlooked without distorting the message.

[2.4] **Clinton**: **Well**, like everyone else.. **you know**, with prior Republican nominees for president, I disagreed with them on **politics**, **policies**, principles.

مثل الجميع.. ومع الترشيح المسبب للجمهوريين أنا أخالفهم من ناحية المبدأ۔

The omission of seemingly minor details could jeopardize the attack function of political campaigning. Clinton floods Trump with a flow of accusations: he insults women, rates them on their appearance, ranks them from one to ten and embarrasses them on Twitter. She accuses him of denigrating 'a former' Miss Universe [2.5], not 'Miss Universe' as in the Arabic rendition which may refer to the present one. This NF omission of 'a former' distorts the message. Clinton also explains how he uses his words 'in the harshest' (note the superlative adjective), 'most personal terms'. The omission of '-est' from the superlative and 'most personal terms' does not communicate the same sense and degree of attacking the opponent's character as intended by Clinton.

Clinton's expertise level of using political language allows her to pick words carefully. She puts herself together with the Americans on one side and Trump on the other side by using 'our' in the expression 'our president' and ironically his fitness for this position. Though the rendition refers implicitly to his unfitness for the position, still it fails in communicating the sense of 'our' through NF omission.

[2.5] **Clinton**: We saw him after the first debate spend nearly a week denigrating **a former** Miss Universe in the harsh**est**, **most personal** terms.. So, yes, this is who Donald Trump is.. that raises questions about his fitness to be **our** president.

وقد رأيناه بعد المناظرة الأولى يمضي أسبوعاً وهو يتحدث عن ملكة جمال العالم وباستخدام عبارات مهينة.. نعم هذا هو دونالد ترامب حقاً.. والذي يطرح أسئلة حول أهليته للرئاسة.

Note the use of 'our' as if Clinton associates herself with the Americans on one side while Trump comes on the other and she talks on their behalf. Simply, Trump should be excluded in her opinion.

In political campaign discourse, the candidate's convincing defense may decide the voters' attitudes. Cleverly, Trump not only defends himself against accusations but also draws attention quickly from defending himself, 'it's just words', to attacking his opponent, who is used to promising voters and fails to keep promises. In [2.6], the omission of 'folks', a filler, does not influence the meaning of the message, while the omission of a whole sentence, like 'in New York, where Hillary was going to bring back jobs to upstate New York', and of the phrases 'job-wise' and 'in every way possible' is NF because the interpretation does not

communicate these character and policy attacks, let alone the trust relationship with the audience as explained before.

[2.6] **Trump**: It's just words, **folks**. It's just words.. I heard them when they were running for the Senate **in New York, where Hillary was going to bring back jobs to upstate New York** and she failed. I've heard them where Hillary is constantly talking about the inner cities of our country, which are a disaster education-wise, **job-wise**, safety-wise, **in every way possible**.

هذه محض كلمات مجرد كلمات.. سمعتها عندما كانت تترشح لمقعد في مجلس الشيوخ وفشلت. سمعتها عندما كانت تتحدث مراراً وتكراراً عن وسط ومراكز المدينة والتي هى كارثية بحق على الصعيد الثقافي والتعليمي والأمني.

Pursuing the theme of attacking the opponent, Trump criticizes her policy concerning the African-Americans, [2.7]. In this example, it is difficult to decide whether the interpreter omitted the sentence 'She wants their vote' and interpreted 'and she does nothing' as (She tried and failed), or he misinterpreted 'She wants their vote' as 'tried'. In either cases, the sentence 'she wants their vote' was not conveyed, i.e. NF. The other two omissions are NF policy attacks too. The interpreter seemed to prefer to omit the segment 'She campaigned where the

[2.7] **Trump**: She's done a terrible job for the African-Americans. **She wants their vote,** and she does nothing.. **We saw that the firsthand** when she was United States Senator**. She campaigned where the primary part of her campaign**- [interrupted by the presenter Raddatz]

أداؤها للأمريكيين السود كان سيئاً وحاولت وفشلت. وبعد أربع سنوات عندما كانت في مجلس الشيوخ-

primary part of her campaign-' rather than interpreting it into a segment for the audience, which is acceptable in some community interpreting contexts. In campaign discourse, the interpretation of such a segment is important because it can reveal a part of a message the candidate wanted to deliver but got interrupted by the TV presenter; it can reveal any biases too.

Whether the campaign had changed Trump, his bad behaviour towards women for instance, as he claimed or not was the third debate question. After he defends himself by saying 'it was a locker room talk, as I told you' and 'I'm not proud of it', he moves to attacking Hillary's husband, President Clinton, arguing that what he did was 'just words' whereas the President did 'far worse', 'action':

[2.8] **Trump**: If you look at Bill Clinton, far worse. Mine are words, **and his was action**. That's never been anybody **in the history politics in this nation** that has been so abusive to women.

ما قام به بيل كلينتون كان أفظع بكثير مما قمتُ به وأفظع معاملة للنساء.

The two omissions, thus, in [2.8] are highly risky, NF interpretation of character attacks. Then he attacks Clinton by narrating how she attacked those 'same women' even 'viciously' in:

[2.9] **Trump**: Hillary Clinton attacked those same women and **attacked them** viciously.. one of the women, **who is a wonderful woman, at 12 years old**, was raped at 12. Her client **she represented got him off and she's been seen laughing on two separate occasions**, laughing at the girl **who was raped**. **Kathy Shelton**, that young woman is here with us today.

هيلاري كلينتون هاجمت هؤلاء النساء وبقسوة... إحدى النساء تعرضت للاغتصاب في سن الثانية عشرة ووكيلتها ووكيلتها كانت تضحك على هذه الفتاة. والسيدة موجودة اليوم.

The repetition in 'she attacked' is omitted and still communicates the function of character attack. But the omissions in the rest of the example are all NF because they miss all the details mentioned to provide evidence for the attack against Clinton's character. Names also represent a challenge in the actual performance of interpreters. In the above-mentioned example and the next, the interpreter omits names, which is NF of course since the reference in the original is made to specific persons whose names Trump deliberately picked and mentioned. There are stories behind these references, not just names. Numbers represent a remarkable challenge, alike. Though the interpreter did not omit the number in [2.10], he misinterpreted it as 400000 instead of 850000:

[2.10] **Trump**: But what President Clinton did, he was impeached, he lost his license to practice law. He had to pay an $ 850.000 fine to one of the women. **Paula Jones**, who's **also** here tonight.

لكن ما قام به الرئيس كلينتون هو طبعاً كان هناك أمر بعزله ودفع 400000 كغرامة لإحدى النساء وهى موجودة اليوم.

While the omission of 'also' does not make a difference in the function of the sentence as a character attack.

Significantly enough, Clinton utilizes the same strategy, defend by attacking. For example, instead of defending herself against Trump's attacks in example [6-10] above, she again attacks Trump: most of what he said is not right and he did not answer the questions directed at him. The omission of the filler 'well', [2.11], is F conveying the intended character attack. The expression 'instead of' is vital in directing the audience's attention to the idea that Trump does not answer their questions, therefore its omission is NF:

[2.11] **Clinton**: **Well**, first, let me start.. **Instead of** answering people's questions, talking about our agenda, laying the plans that we have that we think can make a better life and a better country.

وأن يجيب على أسئلة الناس ويتحدث عن جدول لأعماله وخططه التي .. دعوني أقول أولاً أن يفكر فيها وكيف أنه يمكن

أن يصنع مستقبل وبلد أفضل.

Similarly, Clinton selects the words that aggravate criticism against her opponent and appeal to the audience, whose votes are the target. The reference in [2.12] to the name 'Captain Khan' and his death 'in the line of duty', Trump's insulting behaviour of 'mimicking' on such respectful figures, and his stubbornness in 'never' apologizing cannot be omitted without distorting the meaning of the message:

[2.12] **Clinton**: He never apologized to Mr. and Mrs. Khan, the Gold Star family whose son, **Captain Khan**, died **in the line of duty** in Iraq. And Donald insulted and attacked them for weeks over their religion.. He never apologized to the reporter that he **mimicked** and mocked on national television.. And he **never** apologized for the racist lie..

هو لم يعتذر أبداً للسيد والسيدة كان ولعائلة جولدستون الذين ابنهم النقيب قُتل كان في العراق وقد أهانهم ترامب بسبب دينهم لمدة أسابيع. هو لم يعتذر الى الصحفي الذي سخر منه على شبكات التلفزة الوطنية.. ولم يعتذر عن الكذب العنصري..

Trump responds in [2.13] by attacking Clinton. The interpreter used omissions noticeably in the following examples. The character attack omissions of 'well' and 'actually' are F, of 'very well', 'in a certain garb' and 'long' are SF and of 'he's another real winner', just two weeks ago', and 'sent the pictures around your campaign' are NF:

[2.13] **Trump**: **Well,** you owe the president an apology, because as you know **very well**, your campaign, Sidney Blumenthal_ **he's another real winner** that you have_..and they were on television **just two weeks ago**.. You are the one that **sent the pictures around your campaign**, sent the pictures around with President Obama **in a certain garb**. That was **long** before I was ever involved, so you **actually** owe an apology.

أنتِ تدينين للرئيس بالاعتذار لأنك كما تعرفين أن سيدني بلومنتال وهو أحد أنصارك.. عرض أو عرضت اعلاناً على التليفزيون يقول ذلك .. أنتِ أرسلت صوراً تجمعك بالرئيس أوباما قبل أن أشارك حتى. إذن أنتِ تدينين له بالاعتذار.

The repetition of 'I've gotten to see the commercials' and 'And I've gotten to see some of', [2.14], is safely omitted without distorting the message. Whereas the omission of 'I've ever seen' does not communicate the idea that he is talking about the most vicious commercials 'he' has

ever seen, not generally, an SF attack. The same applies to 'Hillary', a word which he may have used here to mock at her, i.e. an SF attack according to the Arabic rendition:

[2.14]**Trump**: Number two, Michelle Obama. I've gotten to see the commercials that they did on you. **And I've gotten to see some of** the most vicious commercials **I've ever seen** of Michelle Obama talking about you, **Hillary**.

ثانياً   ميشيل أوباما. أنا شاهدت الاعلان التليفزيوني بشأنكم وهذه أسوأ دعاية أو اعلان تليفزيوني وكانت فيها ميشيل أوباما تتحدث عنك. تتحدث.

The omissions of whole sentences as in [2.15] are very risky because they do not convey the message incurred in these character attacks and can affect the interpreter-audience relationship. 'in my opinion', 'because' and 'between super-' are semi-functional omissions:

[2.15] **Trump: So, you talk about friend?** Go back and take a look at those commercials, a race where you lost fair and square, unlike the Bernie Sanders race, where you won, but not fair and square, **in my opinion. And all you have to do is take a look at Wiki-leaks and just see what they say about Bernie Sanders and see what Deborah Wasserman Schultz had in mind, because** Bernie Sanders, **between super**-delegates **and Deborah Wasserman Schultz, he never had a chance. And I was so surprised to see him sign on with the devil.**

أنا أدعوكم الى مشاهدة هذا الاعلان وهذه الدعاية التليفزيونية. أنتِ خسرت في السباق رغم أنك فزت على ساندر. لكن كان ذلك بطريقة غير شريفة. ساندي ساندر في حكمه على الأصوات المفوضين --

Bringing her back to the e-mail scandal, Trump explains cleverly and simply the issue in a harsh attack that she could not defend:

[2.16]**Trump**: ..the thing that you should be apologizing for are the 33.000 e-mails that you deleted, **and that you acid washed**, and **then** the two boxes of e-mails and other things **last week** that were taken from an office and are now missing.

والشيء الذي يجب أن تعتذري عنه هي ثلاثة وثلاثون ألف رسالة الكترونية التي قمت بحذفها وصندوقان من الرسائل الالكترونية وغيرها من الأمور التي أخذت من أحد المكاتب وهي مفقودة الآن.

He says that she 'acid washed' the –mails first, second, 'then', the two boxes of e-mails vanished 'last week'. Hence the three omissions in the example above are NF. Moving steps forward, he continues his attacking messages. The renditions sometimes deviate from the original intended function(s). The omissions of the sentence 'And I'll tell you what', a filler, in [2.17] is communicative, but the omission of 'because there has never been so..so..' and 'There has never been anything like it' are NF character

attacks because Trump insists on explaining to the audience that the number of lies and size of deception in his opponent's personality are unprecedented; that is why he repeats the idea twice here. The interpreter talked about her history full of lies and deception, missing the point of being unprecedented. Trump decided to intensify his attacks by mentioning that after winning the presidential elections, he will ask his attorney general to look into her case.

[2.17] **Trump**: **And I'll tell you what**. I didn't think I'd say this, but I'm going to say it**, and I hate to say it**.. I am going to instruct my attorney general to get a special prosecutor to look into your situation, **because there has never been so** many lies, **so** much deception. **There has never been anything like it**..

أنا كنت لا أريد أن أذكر ذلك لكنني سأقوله، لكن اذا ما فزتُ فإنني سأطلب من المدعي العام أو النائب العام بأن يكلف

مدعي عام يبحث في تاريخك المليئ الأكاذيب والخداع

An implicit comparison is drawn between the character of Trump and that of Clinton, [2.18]. He argues that when he wants to speak, he goes out and speak. Therefore, the omission of the sentence is non-communicative, and so is the rest of the omitted sentences in the example, with the exception of the filler sentence 'as you would say', which is F. The segment 'where e-mails' is unnecessary in the attack, so its omission is F. 'long-term' and 'very expensive process' are too significant to omit, NF. As for the omission of 'in my opinion', it is SF because he is taking from his point of view and not making generalisations.

[2.18] **Trump**: When I speak, **I go out and speak**… **In my opinion**, the people that have been **long-term** workers at the FBI are furious**. There has never been anything like this, where e-mails_** and you get a subpoena, **you get a subpoena**, and after getting a subpoena**,** you delete 33.000 e-mails, **and then you acid washed them or bleach them**, as you would say, very expensive process**.

وأنا أتحدث .. عن غضب الناس الذين عملوا في مكتب التحقيقات الفيدرالي وخصوصاً الأعداد الهائلة من الرسائل الإلكترونية، أنتِ صدر بحقك أمر قضائي، حتى بعد صدور هذا الأمر القضائي قمتِ بحذف 33.000 رسالة إلكترونية.

Then Trump aggravates the audience's emotions against her by indicating how grave her situation is. People get destroyed for doing one fifth only of what she did, he says:

[2.19] **Trump:** So we're going to get a special prosecutor..because **you know what**? **People have been-- their lives have been** destroyed **for doing** one-fifth of what you've done. **And it's a disgrace. And honestly**, you ought to be ashamed of yourself.

لذلك أنا سأكلف نائباً عاماً.. لأن هذه الأكاذيب كانت مدمرة وما قمتُ به لا يعادل خمس ما تقومين به. ويجب أن تخجلي من نفسك.

Eventually, the interpretations of 'People have been-- their lives have been destroyed' as (these lies were destructive) and 'for doing one-fifth of what you've done' as (and what I did is not equal to one fifth of what you did) do not communicate the source messages. These are not omissions, instead wrong interpretations, which lie outside the scope of this study. With the exception of omitting the filler sentence 'you know what?' (F), the other omissions in [2.19] are NF as they do not communicate the candidate's fierce character attacks against the opponent. The expression 'And honestly' reveals how Trump associates himself with the audience in judging Clinton's character.

The fourth debate question is raised about Clinton's 'extremely careless' handling of her e-mails. Trump mocks at Hillary, [2.20], that she as a State Secretary acid-washed concerned documents because she does not know that the letter C stands for Confidential. The omission of 'the word' and 'what the word' is F as the meaning can implicitly be inferred from the rendition.Whereas the omission of the question 'Right?' and 'even' fails to convey the high sense of ridicule in Trump's messages. The same air of mocking continues in [2.21] where he wonders how she twists facts. The omission of 'You know', repeated twice as a filler, is still F, but the omission of 'it's amazing' and 'I don't think so' is NF for the same reason mentioned in the previous example.

[2.20] **Trump**: And yet she didn't know **the word** the letter C on a document. **Right**? She didn't **even** know **what the word** what that letter meant.

لكن مع ذلك هى لا تعرف الحرف سي في أي وثيقة لا تعرف ما يعنيه ذلك الحرف.

[2.21] **Trump**: **You know, it's amazing**. I'm watching Hillary go over facts.. **you know**, what she did with the e-mails was fine.. **I don't think so**.

أنا أشاهد كلينتون تتحدث عن الحقائق.. ما قامت به إزاء الرسائل الإلكترونية هو أمر عادي

All the omissions in [2.22] are NF, whether sentences or phrases for each provide a detail in the attack which cannot be overlooked, with the exception of the segment 'that wasn't before', that may be omitted as a meaningless phrase. Some psychological inferences can be concluded from even segments but again this lies outside the scope of the present study.

[2.22] **Trump**: She said the 33000 e-mails had to do with her daughter's **wedding**, **number one**, and a yoga class. **Well**, **maybe we'll give three or three or four or five or something. 33000 e-mails deleted, and now she's saying there wasn't anything wrong**. And

more importantly, that was after getting a subpoena. **That wasn't before**.. **And I'll be honest**, I am disappointed in Congressmen..

ربما بعض هذه الرسائل الإلكترونية تعنى بابنتها أو دروس اليوجا. لكن تقول هذا بعد أن صدر بحقها أمر قضائي.. وأنا مستاءٌ جداً بشأن أعضاء مجلس الشيوخ..

The interpreter in [2.23] omits some valuable information about a certain situation Trump narrates concerning President Clinton, whom he mocks at as 'our' husband. The omission of these pieces is NF:

[2.23] **Trump**: **Our justice Department**, where **our** husband **goes on to the back of an airplane** for 39 minutes, talks to the attorney general **days before a ruling is going to be made on her case**

عندما زوجها ل 39 دقيقة تحدث إلى أحد المسئولين.

Then, in [2.24], he comes with the imperative conclusion to hopefully share with the audience: Clinton should be put in jail instead of running for presidential elections:

[2.24] **Trump**: **If you did that in the private sector**, you'd be put in jail, **let alone** after getting a subpoena **from the United States Congress**.

يجب أن يزج بها في السجن. هذا بعد أن صدر بحقها الأمر.

The omissions in this example fail to convey the meaning of the source message as well as the overemphasis, in 'let alone', on getting rid of the e-mails despite the subpoena, something unbelievable for him and the audience. Then the rest of this part is a crosstalk between Trump, Clinton and Cooper (the presenter) where he attacks and she can hardly defend. But because the rhythm is so quick that the two interpreters had to omit parts.

The results of analysing omissions in the rendered attacks are quite significant for the study. Out of 104 total omitted attacks, the omissions in Trump's messages far exceeds those in Clinton's (94 to 10) which may imply more distortion in Trump' and more attacks against Clinton. As 19 omissions are related to policy attacks and 85 to character, it can be concluded that the two candidates targeted the opponent's character more than policy. Of the 104 omissions, 72 NF, 19 F and 10 SF. This means Non-Functional omissions surpassed remarkably both the Functional and Semi-Functional ones, resulting probably in more miscommunication. NF omissions are 66 for T and 6 for C. F omissions are 16 T and 3 C. SF omissions are 9 for T and 1 for C. This implies that the renditions of Trump's utterances are more distorted than his opponent's.

5.3. Defenses

Table 3 presents the results of data analysis of omissions in the simultaneously interpreted defenses:

Table3: Omissions in Candidates' Rendered Defenses

Example	C/T	Defenses with Omission Bold	Ch/Po	F/NF/SF	Notes
[3.1]	T	No, I didn't say that **at all**.	Ch	NF	
		I don't think you understand what was-	Ch	NF	
		Certainly I'm not proud of it.	Ch	NF	
[3.2]	T	**You know**,	Po	F	Filler
		where you have_ and, frankly, drowning people in steel cages,	Po	NF	
		where you have wars **and horrible, horrible sights** all over, where you have **so many** bad things happening	Po	NF	
			Po	NF	
		.. the carnage **all over the world**.	Po	NF	
[3.3]	T	**And they look and they see**.	Po	NF	Sentence
		.. **And they look at our country**	Po	NF	Sentence
		and they see what's going on.	Po	NF	Sentence
[3.4]	T	Yes, I'm **very** embarrassed by it.	Ch	NF	
		I Hate it.	Ch	NF	Sentence
[3.5]	T	.. I've said things that, **frankly**, you hear ..	Ch	F	Filler
		But I have **tremendous** respect for women.	Ch	NF	
		And women have respect for me.	Ch	NF	Sentence
[3.6]	T	It was locker room talk. **That was locker room talk**..	Ch	NF	Sentence
		And certainly, I'm not proud of it.	Ch	NF	
[3.7]	T	If you look at Bill Clinton, far worse. **Mine are words, and his**	Ch	NF	Sentence
[3.8]	C	..he just said is absolutely false, **but I'm not surprised.**	Ch	NF	Sentence
[3.9]	C	**I told people** that it would be impossible to fact-checking	Po	NF	
		I'd never get to talk about anything I want to do	Po	NF	Sentence
		and how we're going to really make lives better for people	Po	NF	Sentence
[2.10]	C	We have **literally** Trump_ you can fact check him.	Po	F	Filler
		Last time, at the first debate,	Po	F	
[3.11]	C	**Well**,	Po	F	Filler
		Martha,	Po	F	Name
		first, let me say_ and I've said before,	Po	SF	Sentence
		but I'll repeat it,	Po	SF	Sentence
		because I want everyone to hear it_	Po	SF	Sentence
		..**Obviously**, if I were to do it over again, I would not.	Po	F	Filler
[3.12]	C	..there is no evidence that anyone **can point to at all**_	Po	NF	Segment
		anyone who says otherwise has no basis	Po	NF	Sentence
[3.13]	C	.. classified material very seriously **and always have**..	Po	SF	
		Obviously, as secretary of state,	Po	F	
		I had **some of** the most important secrets	Po	F	
Total			36 Po24 Ch12	NF23 F 9 SF 4	

C stands for Clinton, T Trump, Ch Character, Po Policy, F Functional, NF Non-Functional and SF Semi-Functional
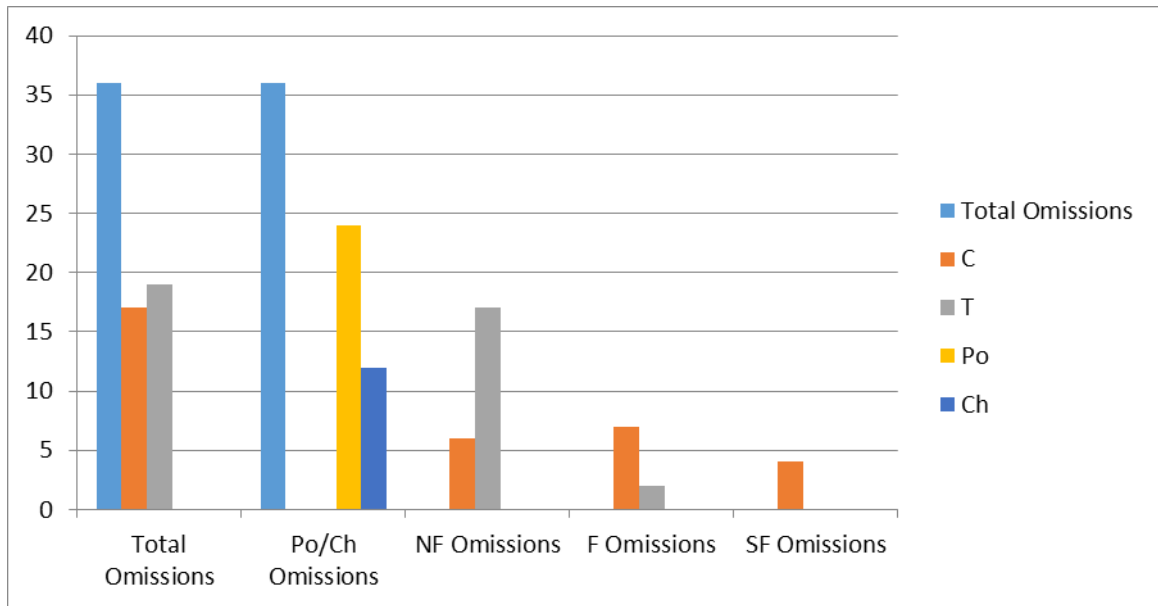

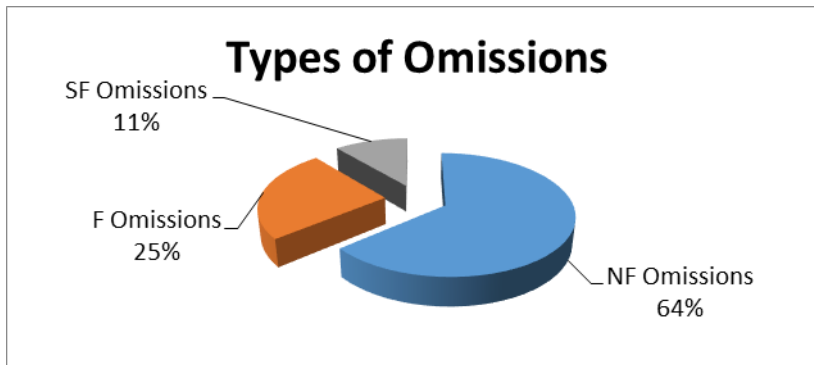Chart 5: Defense Omissions

Chart 6: Types of Omissions

The results of analysing omissions in the rendered defenses show that the total omitted defenses are 36, 19 omissions for Trump's and 17 for Hillary's. 24 omissions are related to policy defenses and 12 to character defenses. Of the 36 omissions, 23 are NF, 9 are F and 4 are SF. NF omissions are 17 for T and 6 for C. F omissions are 2 T and 7 C. SF omissions are 0 for T and 4 for C.

    In an answer to question 2 about the tape, Trump refuses the accusation and denies uttering any insulting words about women 'at all'. The omission of 'at all' in [3.1] distorts the original message where Trump

denies assertively and totally the issue. The interpreter did not also convey the assertiveness in 'Certainly'. He adds that the TV presenters and maybe the audience do not understand what happened, so they just attack him. Hence the omission of 'I don't think you understand what was-' is NF because the interpreter did not communicate the function of this utterance, character defense, properly.

[3.1] **Trump**: No, I didn't say that **at all**. **I don't think you understand what was-** this was a locker room talk... **Certainly** I'm not proud of it.

<div dir="rtl">

لا لا ما قلت ذلك. هذا كان حديثاً خاصاً.. أنا لست فخوراً بما قلتُه.

</div>

Trump still defends, but this time by attacking and describing the horrible world of today. He makes use of some terrorist situations which scared everyone around the globe. In [3.2], he refers to terrorism. As a propaganda for what he can do to save Americans from a foe called 'terrorism', he utilizes the famous incident where

[3.2] **Trump**: **You know**, when we have a world where you have ISIS chopping off heads, **where you have_ and, frankly, drowning people in steel cages**, where you have wars **and horrible, horrible sights** all over, where you have **so many** bad things happening.. We haven't seen anything like this, the carnage **all over the world**.

<div dir="rtl">

لكن عندما نمر في أوقات يقطع فيها مسلحو الدولة رؤوس الناس ونشهد صراعات وحروب في كل مكان. أمور سيئة تحدث. هذا يعيدنا إلى العصور الوسطى. لم نر مثل هذا الرعب والترويع من قبل.

</div>

where ISIS burned a Jordanian pilot alive inside steel cage with this intention in his mind. The omissions in the example, with the exception of the F omission of the filler 'you know', do not communicate the horrifying situation Trump describes.

The omission of whole sentences, for instance [3.3] and [3.4], as explained before, can generally be considered NF on the part of the interpreter. It either misses a part of the message at best, or affects the trust relation between the audience and the interpreter at worst. The omission of 'very', noticed repeatedly along the data, is NF indeed because being 'embarrassed' certainly differs from being 'very embarrassed'. The degree of embarrassment denotes how much Trump regrets his mistake:

[3.3] **Trump**: **And they look and they see**. Can you imagine the people that are, frankly, doing well against us with ISIS? **And they look at our country and they see what's going on**.

هل يمكن أن نتخيل الناس الذين ( ) بشكل رائع ودعمهم لتنظيم الدولة؟

[3.4] Trump: Yes, I'm **very** embarrassed by it. **I Hate it**. But it's locker room talk.

أقول أنا أخجل مما قلتُه و لكن كما ذكرتُ كان حديثاً خاصاً.

Again the rendition in [3.5] distorts Trump's defense by omission. The omission of 'tremendous', 'for women' and 'And women have respect for me' is NF since it does not do justice to defending him. The omission of the filler 'frankly' is NF. The same holds true to [3.6] where the interpreter omitted some parts significant to the defense and omitted whole important sentences, like the one in [3.7].

[3.5] **Trump**: I've said things that, **frankly**, you hear these things I said. And I was embarrassed by it. But I have **tremendous** respect **for women**.- **And women have respect for me.**

أنا تركيزي على الأمور الكبرى والأمور المهمة.. أنتم تسمعون ذلك وسمعتم ما قلته. أنا أشعر بالخجل ولكني أحترم.

[3.6] **Trump**: It was locker room talk. **That was locker room talk**.. **And certainly**, I'm not proud of it.

كما قلت لك كان هذا حديثاً خاصاً.. لستُ فخوراً بما قلتُه.

[3.7] **Trump**: If you look at Bill Clinton, far worse. **Mine are words**, and his was action.

ما قام به كلينتون بيل كلينتون كان أفظع بكثير

The omission of 'And certainly' is NF as explained previously. Trump's strategy of defending by attacking is quite evident in example [3.7] where he defends himself against insulting women by comparing what he said ('just words') to what Bill Clinton did ('action').

On the other hand, Clinton defends herself against Trump's accusations regarding the e-mails, by pretending that she is not surprised because he is simply lying⸴ she obviously attempts to exhibit her knowledge and expertise as someone who is already in the political kitchen and knows much more than the ordinary people. So, the omission of her expression 'but I'm not surprised' is definitely NS in [3.8]. She explains, [3.9], that she cannot 'fact-check' him all the time and people should expect this; she already told them. Although such a defense looks naïve, the interpreter should have conveyed it functionally and the audience is the one to judge. This means that the omissions in [3.9] are NF, let alone the omission of full sentences. Then, she becomes unable to defend convincingly in [3.10], starting to use unnecessarily fillers, whose

omissions are NF. The omission of 'last time' is F since it can implicitly be inferred from the phrase 'the first debate'.

[3.8] **Clinton**: ..because everything he just said is absolutely false, **but I'm not surprised.**

لأن كا ما قاله الآن هو عارٍ عن الصحة.

[3.9] **Clinton**: **I told people** that it would be impossible to fact-checking Donald Trump all the time. **I'd never get to talk about anything I want to do and how we're going to really make lives better for people**.

بالتأكيد لم يكن من الممكن التحقق من صحة كل ما قاله دونالد ترامب.

[2.10] **Clinton:** We have **literally** Trump_ you can fact check him. **Last time**, at the first debate, we had millions of people fact checking..

وتستطيعون التحقق من كل الحقائق.. وفي المناظرة الأولى كان هناك ملايين الناس الذين يتحققون من الوقائع

The three sentences 'first, let me say', 'but I'll repeat it' and 'because I want everyone to hear it' are redundancies of 'I've said before' in [3.11]. The omission here is SF as it conveyed the message successfully but missed Clinton's assertiveness, which is not very vital here. Dropping 'well', 'obviously' and 'Martha' are all F:

[3.11] **Clinton**: **Well, Martha, first, let me say_** and I've said before, **but I'll repeat it, because I want everyone to hear it_** that was a mistake..**Obviously**, if I were to do it over again, I would not.

أود أن أكرر ما قلته لأن ما جرى كان خطأً. ولو عدت الكرة لما قمتَ بهذا العمل مجدداً.

The interpreter in [3.12] rendered the sentence 'anyone can point to at all' as a segment, thus the omission is NF. Also he omitted the whole comment 'anyone who says otherwise has no basis', a NF rendition too, since the message is not communicated:

[3.12] **Clinton**: ..there is no evidence that anyone **can point to at all_ anyone who says otherwise has no basis⬛** that any classified material ended up in the wrong hands.

ولم يكن هنالك أية أدلة على أن أي شخص_ أن أية معلومات سرية انتهت بين الأيدي الخطأ.

Finally, Clinton defends herself claiming that she 'always' takes classified material very seriously, [3.13]. The omission of 'and always have' is implicitly communicated in the rendition and can be considered SF since it does not communicate the assertiveness of the speaker. The rest of the omissions in the example are fillers whose presence is unnecessary for the function of the discourse:

[3.13] **Clinton**: I take classified material very seriously **and always have**.. **Obviously**, as secretary of state, I had **some of** the most important secrets that we possess..

أنا أتعامل مع المعلومات السرية بجدية كبيرة. وأنا أيضاً عندما كنت وزيرة خارجية وأيضاً كان لدي أهم الأسرار التي يمكن أن أمتلكها..

The results of analysing omissions in the rendered defenses reveal that the number of omissions in Trump's messages is almost equal to that in Hillary's, with 24 vs. 23. The omissions related to policy defenses outnumbered, in fact double, character defenses with 24 and 12 respectively. Of the 36 total omissions, again NF omissions noticeably surpassed both F and SF: 23, 9 and 4 respectively. Trump's utterances are more distorted than Clinton's: 17 NF omissions for T and 6 for C; F omissions are 2 T and 7 C. This may denote that more F omissions occurred for Clinton, who tended to use more unnecessary (easy for the interpreter to omit) wording than Trump. SF omissions are 0 for T and 4 for C, which may also indicate that the omission of some of Clinton's messages is less functional than that of Trump's and that most risky omissions occurred when Trump's messages were being rendered.

Conclusion

To sum up, this qualitative and quantitative study aimed to provide a new categorisation of omission in simultaneous interpreting through exploring and investigating omission in the simultaneous interpreting of U.S. presidential debates from English into Arabic in order to improve the interpreter's performance. It explored omission in real, professional contexts to determine how far omissions can communicate the three functions of presidential debates. The data was collected from the second debate between Clinton and Trump (2016). An interdisciplinary approach adapting Pym's Risk Analysis and adopting Benoit's Functional theory was employed.

Two questions were raised: how omission in the Arabic simultaneous interpreting of U.S. presidential debates can affect the encoded message in the candidates' instrumental use of the three functions of the political campaign discourse (acclaims, attacks and defenses), and how to categorise omissions accordingly. In the attempt to answer these questions, the study came to the conclusion that there is a gap in understanding omission in interpreting a discourse type as such from English into Arabic and that interpreters used three types of omissions in their renditions: Non-Functional (NF), Functional (F) and Semi-Functional (SF), a matter which affected the functions of the rendered debate. The analysis and discussion have shown that most omissions were NF, i.e. they did not convey the intended functions of this campaign

discourse. Some of these omissions were whole sentences, phrases, numbers, names. The new conclusion the study came across, contrary to the norm, is that sometimes the omission of fillers, repetitions, redundancies⸱ omissions taken for granted by simultaneous interpreters⸱ can be very risky, NF.

The product and its potential impact(s) for the aims of communication determine the level of functionality entailed in the interpretation, whether 'functional', 'nonfunctional, or 'semi-functional". This definitely affects the quality of the interpretation and brings us back to Korpal's question:

> 'Is it possible for an interpreter to omit certain information deliberately due to the fact that some segments have been assessed as redundant or dispensable because they are implicitly present in the discourse? Do omissions necessarily indicate lesser quality? (Korpal 2012:104)

In contexts like political campaign discourse, the performance of the candidates can be decisive in formulating the attitudes of the voters and audience. Therefore, there is a risk to judge the interpreter's performance instead of the candidate's. That is to say, not all discourse types behave in the same way and the strategies of simultaneous interpreting which seem acceptable in one type may not suit the other.

The study suggests that researchers and the target audience alike should not use the simultaneous interpretation to judge the performance of the interpreter instead of that of the speaker himself. One reason may be attributed to the nature of SIM, being an 'interpretation' of an original message rather than a translation. It recommends that omission in the simultaneous interpretation of U.S. presidential debates should be accounted for in the light of an interdisciplinary approach combining between multi-layered linguistic and pragmatic analysis, interpreting studies and a functional theory of political campaign discourse. If the interpreter becomes aware of the functions of this discourse type and how it behaves, then his performance should presumably be improved. At this particular point, it suggests that further empirical, experimental and theoretical research should be carried to test the validity of the results it presented.

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