Understanding Translation as a Locus of English-Arabic Language Contact in the Age of Globalization

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Abstract

This paper investigates translation practices from a contact-linguistic perspective and regards translation as a language contact phenomenon in which translators use both the source and target language. By analyzing parallel corpora of BBC news website and its Arabic version, the paper seeks to reveal that translation-mediated contact leaves some traces of the influence of English in its role as the world's most widely spread and used lingua franca on Arabic. One of the major consequences of this influence is the introduction of Anglicisms into the vocabulary of Arabic. In other words, this paper examines the frequency of Anglicisms in translating BBC news into Arabic.

Key words: translation, language contact, Anglicisms, and BBC.

0. Introduction

Due to the cultural, political, and economic influence of Great Britain and the United States of America followed by the growing role of globalization and the rapid development of technology, it is impossible to ignore the global spread of English in many contexts and genres worldwide. At present, English is, without doubt, a lingua franca across the globe.

Recent publications assert the continued influence of English on most language communities of the whole world. The case of Arabic is not an exception from this point of view, and throughout this research it is realized that the Arabic media language has been exposed openly to English influences during the last few decades.

This influence provides invaluable evidence of the close contact between English and Arabic. Contact does not necessarily result from immigration, conquest, or colonization as in earlier times, it can be due to the spread of mass media or translation activities. In its actual fact, translation, which is the transmission of meanings and/or ideas of a text between different languages, is considered a particular type of language contact. Generally, language contact is directly a major source that triggers language change. Therefore, translation operates as a propagator of influence that is capable of enabling linguistic changes. The simplest kind of influence exerted by one language on another is the borrowing of lexical materials.

Borrowing is not only recognized as the most commonly attested language contact phenomenon but also occupies a significant position in general linguistics. This mechanism has been utilized to investigate classical language contact situations where linguistic changes take place, and it has hardly been systematically applied to the study of translation as part of a wider context of transfer-related phenomena of language change. Therefore, this study views linguistic borrowing as a window into the specific ways in which language change operates in the context of English-Arabic language contact through translation, and the extent to which English might be said to be influencing, changing, or existentially threatening Arabic.

1. Review of the Literature
1.1. Translation and Language Contact

Language contact occurs when speakers of different languages come into close contact with each other. It is generally acknowledged that languages are "exemplified in both written and spoken forms … Translation is an indirect dialogue between texts and readers through silent reading. Here *texts* refers to both source and target texts, while *readers* mean both the translator and the target reader" (Xie & Gong, 2015, p. 118). Also, translation is a special form of bilingual communication in the sense that translators move between the source and target languages during the process of rendering. Since translation "involve[s] the use of two languages, and since translators are a subclass of bilinguals, TS [translation studies] may be regarded as a subdivision of contact linguistics" (Lanstyak, 2003, p. 57).

When texts are translated from an SL into a TL, the product of this process often exhibits an influence of features of the SL on the TL as vocabulary or structures are taken over in the process of rendering. Thus, language contact through translation represents a specific mechanism with potential to bring about contact-induced changes. According to Thomason (2001), language contact situations can induce "change in some or all of the languages: typically, though not always, at least one of the languages will exert at least some influence on at least one of the other languages" (p. 10). The phrase "at least some influence" actually covers a wide range of types of contact-induced changes. Winter (1973) claims that "no component of a natural language is totally immune to change under the impression of outside languages" (p. 144).

Therefore, language change appears in all subsystems of a language, i.e. phonological, morphological, lexical, semantic, pragmatic, stylistic, and syntactic. However, not all language aspects seem equally vulnerable to linguistic changes; the most conspicuous type of language change is probably lexical

change where changes are most noticeable and frequent. As Rogers (2015) suggests, "the part of language which is most likely to change and to change in a noticeable way is the vocabulary" (p. 117). The effect of language contact and translation as promoters of language change is closely related to the fact that various consequences for language processing and production whereby some linguistic materials are incorporated from one language into another. In most cases, this incorporation leads to the arising of different linguistic phenomena, including borrowing, code-mixing, code-switching, and language transfer (language interference).

1.2. How Do Languages Influence Each Other?

When different languages come into close contact, either directly through interpersonal contacts or indirectly through translation, they can influence each other. This influence is usually proportional to the political, economic, and cultural power of the influencing language's speakers. In this connection, Crystal (2003) maintains that

> There is the closest of links between language dominance and economic, technological, and cultural power… Language exists only in the brains and mouths and ears and hands and eyes of its users. When they succeed, on the international stage, their language succeeds. When they fail, their language fails. (p. 7)

Sapir (1921) suggests that "the simplest kind of influence that one language may exert on another is the borrowing of words" (p. 206). Simply speaking, the superiority of a given civilization results in the introduction of linguistic materials from the language of such civilization into other languages. By way of illustration, when the Arabs were the primary bearers of civilization during the early medieval period, Arabic "was the intellectual and scientific language of the entire scholastic world. The men of letters and science had to know Arabic if they wanted to produce works of arts and science" (Salloum &

Peters, 1996, p. 23). So, apparently, Arabic has been one of the few languages that have made a very significant influence in the world arena, and as a result it has, over the centuries, served as an important source for borrowings for many languages, e.g. Turkey, French, Persian, Portuguese, Spanish, etc. to name some. Nowadays, however, things have changed radically. The language that has a great influence on most language communities is English.

1.3. Influence of English on Arabic

English has been regarded as an important language for the last two centuries, but it is only since the second half of the twentieth century that it has gained the status of being a global language. McCrum, Cran, and MacNeil (2003) comment: "English at the end of the twentieth century is more widely scattered, more widely spoken and written, than any other language has ever been. It has become the language of the planet, the first truly global language" (pp. 9:10). Eco (1995) emphasizes two important facts about the predominant position currently enjoyed by English. The first is the "historical contingency arising from the mercantile and colonial expansion of the British Empire", and the second is the "American economic and technological hegemony" (p. 331). That is to say, the unavoidable spread of English is attributed to both the power of British colonialism in the nineteenth century as well as the American dominance in almost all aspects of life in the twentieth century. The historical and cultural reasons underlying this unprecedented phenomenon are significant factors that have boosted the influence of English over other languages throughout the world, including Arabic.

English has had a major impact on Arabic for the last decades, especially on the vocabulary level. Many reasons can be given as to why Arabic is strongly influenced by English. First, English is generally considered to be "a universal lingua franca whose influence is manifest in many modern languages

[including Arabic]" (Cortes, Ramirez, Rivera, Viada, & Fayer, 2005, pp. 35:36). Second, nowadays, English is the most useful foreign language as it is "primarily attached to modernity" (Zenner, Speelman & Geeraerts, 2012, p. 1024). According to Millar and Trask (2015), "English itself has become the most prestigious language on earth, [and] today it is primarily a donor language" (p. 18). Agreeing with Millar and Trask that English is the most prestigious language in the world, it is noted that a large number of Anglicisms are incorporated into many languages, including Arabic. Third, "a characteristic of our modern world is the rapid development of technology and the sciences, and with it the influx of technological and scientific terms into the common core of the language is continuously increasing" (Stein, 2002, p. 134). To put it succinctly, the Arab nation is standing nowadays as a receiver rather than a producer in the technological and scientific domains, and then it is obliged to deal daily with the massive influx of new terms and concepts that have no given equivalents in Arabic. Fourth, "in recent times, increasing globalization [has] strengthened the position of English as a global language" (Cortes et el., 2005, pp. 35:36). To conclude, because of the growing role of globalization in the whole world, it is impossible to deny the spread of English and its impact on nearly all other languages, including Arabic.

2. Theoretical Framework
2.1. Borrowing as a Linguistic Strategy for Translation Theory

Borrowing is a translation technique in which "elements of ST are replaced by "parallel" RL elements" (Vinay & Darbelnet, 2004, p. 85). It is designated as the simplest type of all translation procedures, "since it merely involves the transfer of an SL word into TT without it being modified in any way" (p. 85). Borrowing is a very common and natural linguistic phenomenon among the languages of the world. In point of

fact, "no language in the world is entirely devoid of loanwords" (Tadmor, 2009, p. 55). English, for instance, "has adopted a vast number of words from other languages, including *croissant* (French), *dope (Dutch), lilac* (Persian), *piano* (Italian), *pretzel* (German), *sofa* (Arabic), *tattoo* (Tahitian), *tycoon* (Japanese), *yogurt* (Turkish) and *zebra* (Bantu)" (Yule, 2010, p. 54).

Sometimes, the terms borrowing and loans are utilized to indicate a similar concept; however, there is a slight difference. On the one hand, borrowing is utilized to refer to both the process by which a linguistic material is borrowed and the observable results of that process. On the other hand, loan is only used to refer to the product of the borrowing process. As is frequently pointed out, the term borrowing is vague, because it does not specify what language features can be transferred into the recipient language.

The question of what features can be borrowed is one of the most important issues discussed in the field of contact linguistics. According to Thomason and Kaufman (1988), "as far as the strictly linguistic possibilities go, any linguistic feature can be transferred from any language to any other language" (p. 14). In this sense, not only can individual words be borrowed, structural features may be borrowed as well. Any aspect of a language can be borrowed through time. To illustrate, borrowed elements may be phonemes, morphemes, lexemes, and syntactic structures. Nevertheless, "the vocabulary of a language, considerably more loosely structured than its phonemics or its grammar, is beyond question the domain of borrowing par excellence" (Weinreich, 1953, p. 56). In brief, lexical borrowing is the most common type; that's why lexical elements are more likely to be borrowed than structural ones.

2.2. Haugen's Model (1950)

In order to discuss the most observed results of borrowing in the recipient language, Haugen (1950) divides the sphere of borrowing into three types: loanwords, loan-blends, and loanshifts. This division is "based on the question of whether or not source language morphemes are imported into the borrowing and whether or not substitution of source language morphemes or phonemes by borrowing language elements occurs" (Treffers-Daller, 2010, p. 22). Importation refers to the introduction of an item from the donor language into the recipient language, whereas substitution denotes replacing an item from the donor language with a native pattern. The first category, loanword, is "the vaguest of the group since it may include practically any of the others" (Haugen, 1972, p. 84). As a result, loanwords are the most common and the most important. This category shows morphemic importation without morphemic substitution.

Loanwords encompass cases of borrowing where "speakers have imported not only the meaning of the form but also its phonemic shape, though with more or less complete substitution of native phonemes" (Haugen, 1950, pp. 213:214). Examples of such loanwords can be seen in the French words *monologue, tableau, catalogue, caricature* that have been completely borrowed into Arabic (where both form and meaning are transferred).

The second type is loanblends, also known as hybrids. This category shows both morphemic substitution and importation. A loanblend is sometimes "used to distinguish loanwords in which only a part of the phonemic shape of the word has been imported, while a native portion has been substituted for the rest" (p. 214). Thus, the Arabic /diktaatuurijja/ (dictatorship) is an example of hybrids where the meaning is totally borrowed, but only part of the form. This example is composed of both foreign and native elements in the sense that it consists of English and Arabic morphemes, i.e.

/dictator/ is imported from English, but /-ijja/ is substituted for *ship*. Last but not least, loan shifts "include all loans in which complete substitution of native morphemes for the foreign ones has taken place, but in combinations not previously found in the borrowing language" (Suleiman, 1985, p. 77). That is the case in which only the meaning is borrowed, but the form is native. One of the most frequently cited examples of loan shifts is the term *loanword* itself which is calqued from the German *Lehnwort*.

3. Methodology
3.1. Data Collection and Procedure

In order to achieve the aims of the present study, a carefully constructed corpus is made of with data collected from top news of BBC English online website and its Arabic version. In order to cover a broad range of topics, the corpus covers five themes of news reporting. Thirty randomly selected samples of each genre per year and over a period of 3 years (2014 - 2017) make up the text material used in this study. The corpus is composed of 450 news articles translated from English into Arabic, which altogether make a corpus of approximately 321560 words. Besides, Haugen's model (1950) is adopted. Then, a comparative analysis of ST-TT coupled pairs is carried out to analyze the data by referring to the procedures of linguistic borrowing, and to classify them according to their lexical categories and semantic fields.

4. Analysis and Discussion
4.1. Results with Respect to Overall Frequency

With regard to the overall frequency of Anglicisms in the BBC corpus, it can be said that borrowings are quite numerous. A total of 450 articles, collected from BBC English online website and its Arabic version during the 2014 to 2017 time-period, have been searched for Anglicisms. The investigation of the articles has yielded 5326 Anglicisms (tokens). An

overview of the overall Frequency of Anglicisms found in the corpus are given in the table below:

Time period	Total number of words	No. of Anglicisms	Percentage of Anglicisms
2014-2017	321560	5326	1.65

Table 1: Overall Frequency of Anglicisms over the investigation period.

A closer analysis of the results in table 1 reveals that the total number of words in the articles is 321560, of which 5326 tokens are Anglicisms, which is approximately 1.65% of the total number of words. This relatively large percentage of English borrowings provides invaluable evidence of the translation-mediated contact influence exerted by English upon Arabic. Generally speaking, Anglicisms can be a double-edged sword capable of producing both positive and negative outcomes on Arabic. The positive effect of borrowing is represented as being one of the simplest and most common processes by which Arabic renews and develops its capacity, more specifically its lexicon. The negative effect is perceived by some critics as language decay and a long-term threat to the integrity or existence of Arabic.

4.2. Anglicisms Results According to Word Classes

Organizing the English borrowings into their grammatical categories can provide some insights into which grammatical words tend to be borrowed more often than others from English into Arabic. Table 2 below gives an overview of word classes to which Anglicisms of the BBC corpus belong.

Word Class	Nouns	Adverbs
2014-2017	96.37%	3.63%

Table 2: Word Classification of Anglicisms

The data in Table 2 show that Anglicisms in BBC translated news chiefly belong to one of the two word classes, namely nouns and adjectives. With 96.37% of words being nouns or nominal phrases, it is clear that the vast majority of borrowings

belongs to the group of nouns. The high percentage of nouns can be explained by the fact that many English nouns come into Arabic as a designation for an innovation in technology, or for an unfamiliar or new object, idea, concept, or cultural phenomenon. Haspelmath (2009) gives the following explanation for the word-class-specific differences in the availability for borrowing: "a very important factor involves one of the primary motivations for lexical borrowing, that is, to extend the referential potential of a language. Since reference is established primarily through nouns, these are the elements borrowed most easily" (p. 7).

To illustrate, various Anglicisms introduced into Arabic are terms denoting domain-specific innovations that did not originate in the Arab world. As such things are often objects invented or discovered in the west, it is obvious that most of them belong to the category of nouns. For instance, nouns can be names of machines, transportation names, names of consumer items, and abstract terms. Some examples are /ʔiskaanar/ (scanner), /ʔsbirin/ (aspirin), /kungris/ (congress), /naylon/ (nylon), /mosiqa/ (music), /bakaluryus/ (bachelor), /hamburgar/ (hamburger), /bitza/ (pizza), /tinis/ (tennis), /barfan/ (perfume), /ʔflaam/ (films), /tiraajiidiyya/ (tragedy), etc. Adjectives come in second with 3.63%. Examples of adjectives are /miikaniikiy/ (mechanic), /ʔuutumaatiikiy/ (automatic), /dijital/ (digital), /ʔimbiryial/ (imperial), /ʔistratijiy/ (strategic), /fidraal/ (federal), /radikaal/ (radical), /ʔikliniikiy/ (clinical), /ruumansiy/ (romantic), and /ʔistirliiniy/ (sterling), etc.

4.3. Anglicisms Results According to Semantic Fields

To begin with, a semantic field is made up of a group of words which covers certain, with identifiable thematic, affinities. Similarly, Lehrer (1985) defines the term as "a set of lexemes which cover a certain conceptual domain and which bear certain specifiable relations to one another" (p. 287).

Thus, for instance, in the domain of technology, the lexical field consists of computer, tablet, processor, router, server, etc. These words divide the domain of technology into a semantic field. As far as the use of Anglicisms in the BBC corpus is concerned, all borrowings are examined with respect to their thematic categories. The language categories are not figured out beforehand, but came into being through a close look at each Anglicism. The classification of borrowings according to their thematic categories is as follows: technology; science and medicine; politics and diplomacy; culture, religion, and society; consumer and household; and entertainment and sport. Needless to say, there are often areas of overlap between different semantic fields, though, it is more common in one specific filed. For instance, the Arabicized word /ʔistiraatijiyyah/ (strategy) is often related to the political field, but it can be utilized in other fields as in /ʔistiraatijiyyah taʕliim/ (education strategy). The overall findings of Anglicisms found in the BBC corpus are summarized in Table 3.

Domains	No. of Anglicisms	Percentage
Technology	1951	36.63%
Science and medicine	1393	26.15%
Politics, military and diplomacy	904	16.97%
Religion and society	783	14.70%
Entertainment and sport	295	5.53%

Table 3. Domains with the highest frequency of English borrowings

Taking a close look at Table 3 shows that the total number of Anglicisms in Arabic is estimated to be very high. The frequency of English borrowings depends on the genre of news, and certain domains generally include a higher number of borrowings than other. Simply speaking, although the use of these borrowings occurs in all aspects of everyday life, the

greatest number of English borrowings can be observed in the domain of technology by 1951 total number of Anglicisms. The second highest number in the data is in the domain of science and medicine (1393 Anglicisms), followed by the domain of politics and diplomacy (904 Anglicisms), after that by the domain of religion and society (783 Anglicisms). The lowest frequency is in the domain of entertainment and sport by recording only 295 number of times.

5.4. Frequency According to Anglicism Type

Recall that, out of a total of 321560 words, there are 2183 types and 5326 tokens of Anglicisms. These are classified using Haugen's model of the results of linguistic borrowing. Haugen's model establishes the categories considered in this study as follows: loan words, loan-blends, and loan translations. The distribution of Anglicisms across the different types is as follows: almost sixty percent of the English elements found in the BBC translated articles into Arabic have been taken over with little or no change in spelling and morphology. English borrowings were labeled loanwords, if they retain the same meaning and the same foreign pronunciation of the English word. Thus, the greatest number of English borrowings belongs to the category of loanwords. The second and third most frequent types of English borrowings in the BBC corpus are loan-blends and loan-shifts. Loan-blends refer to those instances of borrowings in which words are created by compounding elements from both English and Arabic. Loan-shifts include all English borrowings in which only the meaning is borrowed but the form is native. Figure 4 illustrates the frequency of the various loan types in the corpus.

Mechanism	Loanwords	Loan-blends	Loan-shifts	Total
No. of Terms	3195	1384	747	5326
%	59.9%	26.%	14.1 %	100%

This table contains a total of 5326 main entries extracted from a total of 321560 entries in the corpus. The terms are divided according to the three methods of word-borrowing that produce them. Most of these Anglicisms belong to the category of loanwords, with 3195 terms (59.9% of the total). Examples of loanwords in the data are /ʔistiiriyuu/ (stereo), /baraŠuut/ (parachute), /siinaariyuu/ (scenario), /siminaar/ (seminar) /luubi/ (lobby), /qunṣul/ (consul), /kulusturuul/ (cholesrtol), /ʔuzuun/ (ozone), /banuraama/ (panorama), /ruutiin/ (routine), /sinatuur/ (senator), /Šaambuu (shampoo), etc. Loan-blends account for the second highest number of terms, with 1384 terms (26% of the total). Examples of loan-blends are /kilaasiikiyya/ (classicalism), /faaŠiyya/ fascism, /fidraaliyya/ (federalism) /iidyuluujiyya/ (ideology), /libraaliyya/ (liberalism), /luujistiyya/ (logistics), /miikanismaat (mechanisms), /miidaaliyya/ (medal), /birgmaatiyya/ (pragmatism), /radikaaliyya/ (radicalism), /ʔistatiikiyya/ (statistics) /sinfuuniyya/ (symphony), /tiknuqraatiyya/ (technocratism), etc. Loan translations account for the lowest number of terms, with 747 terms (14.1% of the total). Some examples are /ħarb Šawaariʕ/ (street war), /natiħaat al-siħaab/ skyscrapers, /al-infigaar al-ʕaziim/ (the big bang), /yaftaħ al-nar/ (open fire), /bank ad-dam/ (blood bank), /xayaal ʕlmiy/ (science fiction), /ʔinħiyaar aswaaq al-maal/ (collapse of money market), /taghtiyat al-aħdaath/ (coverage of the events), al-baṭaalah aṭ-ṭatawʕiyya/ (voluntary unemployment), /maaʔidat al-mufaawadaat/ (table of negotiations), /ʕamaliyyat sunʕi as-salaam/ (the process of peace making), etc.

5. Conclusion

The linguistic impact of English is nowadays considerable in all areas, and as a result many English words are introduced into the vocabularies of Arabic. This impact provides invaluable evidence of the close contact between English and Arabic. Although the English impact dates back to the last two centuries, the use of Anglicisms in the Arabic media language has become more widespread since the second half of the twentieth century. The fact that BBC online website is one of the most influential and widely read online newspaper, motivated the researcher to select it in order to provide a corpus for this study. As the basis for the study, 450 articles of approximately equal length are collected from top news of BBC English online website and its Arabic version during the 2014 to 2017 time-period. The selected articles are divided into five categories of news genre, with the aim of analyzing and discussing the frequency and distribution of borrowings according their word classes, thematic classifications, and loan types. This is achieved by counting first tokens and types of borrowings in the entire corpus and then calculating the percentage of borrowings in relation to the total number of words. The findings show that the corpus contains 321560, of which 5326 tokens are Anglicisms, which is approximately 1.65% of the total number of words. All Anglicisms in the corpus belong to open class words, and are classified into two main groups: nouns and adjectives. The most frequent word class is nouns with 96.37% of all Anglicisms, and adjectives represent 3.63%. Further, with respect to the thematic categories, the category with the highest number of borrowings is the category of technology by 1951 total number of Anglicisms. The second category with the highest number of anglicisms in the data is science and medicine (1393 Anglicisms), followed by the domain of politics and diplomacy (904 Anglicisms), and then by the domain of religion and society (783 Anglicisms). The lowest frequency is in the

domain of entertainment and sport by recording only 295 number of times. Finally, Haugen's classification of the results of borrowing proved to be a very effective model when applied to the corpus of Anglicisms in translating BBC news website into Arabic. As a result, borrowings are analyzed according to Haugen's model as follows: loanwords, loan blends, and loan shifts. Most borrowings belong to the category of loanwords, which means that they are written and pronounced as in English. Obviously, loanwords account for the highest number of terms, with 3195 terms (59.9% of the total). Loan-blends, which are a combination of English constituents with Arabic elements, make up an important part of the Anglicisms in the corpus: 26% of all Anglicisms are a combination of English and Arabic elements. Loan-shifts, which include all English borrowings in which only the meaning is borrowed but the form is native, account for the lowest number of terms, with 747 terms (14.1% of the total).

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